Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-165 *25 August 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Threatens To 'Step Up' Jihad; PA Comments

TA2508064895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has announced that it will step up the jihad against Israel despite the arrest of several dozen of its members by the Shin Bet. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has instructed the Palestinian security services to continue the manhunt for Yahya 'Ayyash, also known as the engineer. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] The Hamas announcement, which was published one day after the capture of its military infrastructure in Judaea and Samaria, stated that despite the arrests, the movement would step up the attacks and the jihad against Israel. The Hamas statement asserted that by reporting the arrests, Israel hoped to improve the morale of its soldiers and check the decline in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's popularity. Israel has given the Palestinian authorities information received in the course of Shin Bet interrogations with regard to Yahya 'Ayyash's whereabouts in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian Authority [PA] sources said that Yasir 'Arafat has issued categorical instructions to capture Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the engineer, and Muhammad Dhif, also known as Abu-Khalid, at any price. These are the two senior terrorists who operate the suicide bombers.

Major General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the autonomy police, said that the forces are already deployed in the field in order to achieve this goal. We are taking secret measures that still cannot be revealed to achieve positive results, Maj. Gen. Yusuf explained.

PA official Dr. Nabil Sha'th claimed that following the bus bombings in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem, 'Arafat broke off the dialogue with Hamas on the Islamic movement's incorporation into the PA and other decision-making bodies. The PA, Sha'th asserted, was surprised by these terrorist attacks because it had been sure that an understanding had been reached with Hamas on halting violent activities. The dialogue could only resume, Sha'th said, on the basis of an understanding that the violence must stop. [end recording]

Nazzan: Rights Cannot Be Kept Without Resistance

MS2208103295 London THE TIMES in English 22 Aug 95 p 9

[Report by Michael Theodoulou, incorporating interview with Muhammad Nazzan, Hamas representative in Amman, 21 August: "New Attacks Feared After Defiant Vow by Hamas"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, vowed yesterday to carry out more attacks to derail the peace process between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, after admitting responsibility for yesterday's suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem.

Ironically, at its inception, the militant organisation was encouraged by Israel, which regarded it as a counterweight to the secular PLO. Now Hamas, at war with the PLO, its leader Yasir 'Arafat and the Jewish state, is determined to wreck the 1993 peace treaty which it considers a betrayal of the national rights of Palestinians.

The organisation's methods are ruthless, and the suicide bombings, kidnappings and executions have come close to sinking the peace process on several occasions. Yet Hamas sees itself as a legitimate resistance organisation with the aim of liberating all of Palestine from Jewish occupation. "In history, you can't retain your rights without resistance, Muhammad Nazzal, the group's spokesman in Amman, said. "Look at Algeria or Vietnam. The Bosnians could be successful, too."

Speaking hours before yesterday's atrocity, he insisted that Hamas opposed any action that hurt civilians. But he tried to justify previous bus bombings, saying: "Tel Aviv is the centre of occupation and that's why bus bombs are acts of resistance." After the blast yesterday, he was unavailable for comment.

Charges that Hamas is a terrorist organisation are brushed aside as Western double standards: "The British consider Gerry Adams a terrorist, but in America he is received as a political leader."

Hamas, he said, needed military muscle in order to negotiate with Israel from a position of strength. "'Arafat started from a position of extreme weakness, which is how the Israelis managed to push on him the solution and get recognition of their state and settlements without getting anything in return."

Hamas, he claimed, was a pragmatic organisation whose offers Israel had spurned. "We would agree to a ceasefire with Israel that could last from five to ten years provided it freed all Palestinian prisoners and left the West Bank and Gaza Strip permanently."

Hamas was founded on December 14, 1987 as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, a blind, charismatic and wheelchair-bound cleric. He was arrested by Israel two years later and subsequently jailed for life. Only days earlier, the Palestinian

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uprising or intifada against Israel had erupted in the occupied territories, and the newly formed Hamas immediately joined forces with the PLO. For more than a year they kept to a general policy, which eschewed firearms, but then began to execute Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel.

In 1990, it established its military wing called the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam brigade. It funded arms purchases mainly with money from Iran and private donations from Saudi Arabia. Israeli attempts to crush Hamas, including the mass deportation of 415 suspected Hamas activists in December 1992, which drew widespread international condemnation, failed to stop its terrorism. Similar and determined attempts by the PLO have also failed. Mr 'Arafat's security apparatus, including 20,000 policemen and soldiers, have arrested scores of radicals and limited Hamas's scope, but suicide bombings are virtually impossible to prevent.

Hamas launched the bombings after the 1993 peace deal, following the example of the pro-Iranian Hizballah in southern Lebanon which used the tactic with devastating results, most notably in 1983 when a truck bomber killed 241 US Marines in Beirut.

Support for Hamas inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip has fluctuated with the changing fortunes of the peace process. Most Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have welcomed the social liberalisation that has come with Mr Arafat's secular authority after years of restrictions when Islamic militants held sway. In recent months, Hamas's main concern has appeared to be safeguarding institutions like Islamic schools instead of attacking Israel.

The majority of Palestinian public opinion is weary of the backlash brought by terrorism against Israel, resulting in economic hardship and collective punishments.

All Means Said Justified To Fight 'Oppression'

TA2208070195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Report by correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem on interview with Shaykh Taysir al-Tamimi, one of the leaders of Hamas on the West Bank; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip are maintaining a loud silence after the Jerusalem terrorist bombing, fearing retaliatory steps by the Palestinian Authority [PA]. On the West Bank, on the other hand, the Hamas activists fear arrest by the Israeli security authorities. We, nevertheless, managed to elicit a few remarks from Shaykh Taysir al-Tamimi from Hebron. Shaykh Yasir al-Tamimi spent six months in administrative detention and is one of the few Hamas members who hold a position within the PA. He currently supervises the Shari'a Courts in the West Bank. I am against shedding the blood of innocent people, al-Tamimi said, however, it must be understood that just as people were killed in Jerusalem, innocent Palestinians were murdered in the Cave of the Patriarchs and Dura al-Qar'.

A person prepared to sacrifice his life is someone who suffered from oppression and persecution which led him to carry out such acts. Therefore, I believe that if the oppression and persecution ends, these actions could stop.

Speaking at Gaza's al-Azhar University yesterday, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that Islam does not permit the killing of innocent civilians. Shaykh al-Tamimi, however, explains that Islamic law sees jihad against oppression and the oppressors in a different light. Shaykh al-Tamimi went on to say that he does not want his remarks to be viewed as incitement; however, as long as oppression continues and Palestinian rights are infringed, jihad calls for the use of all means to alter the situation. The Palestinians feel, al-Tamimi said, that Israel is forcing them to accede to its interests in the negotiations such as with regard to the water issue and the presence of the settlers in Hebron. Is it logical, al-Tamimi said, to deny the rights of the 150,000 Palestinian residents of Hebron because of 400 settlers? The Israeli army, he stressed, must withdraw from Hebron unconditionally.

Hamas on Rabin 'Farces' After Bus Operation

JN2508095995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today issued a statement in which it revealed the farces fabricated by Rabin following the martyrdom operation in Ramat Eshkol, which made terrorist Rabin and his war staff and security bodies stagger because of the impact of the shock and the ability of the mujahidin of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's battalions.

In its statement, Hamas Movement says: Perhaps the most recent fabricated farce is the one revealed by enemy media organs on the number of those arrested in the West Bank in the past few days and their relation to the recent operations.

The statement adds: Hamas Movement stresses that such farces by Rabin aim at boosting the collapsed moral of enemy soldiers and settlers. Moreover, Hamas Movement says that its jihad will escalate and the sacrifices of its heroes will continue as an expression of our people's rejection of the continued brutal occupation and

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their stand against the occupation authorities' arrogance, repression and settlement campaigns, and their desecration of our chaste holy shrines.

Hamas Movement says that the resistance will not stop until our people are able to establish their independent state on all their national soil and that the resistance will not adhere to the Oslo, Cairo, and Taba agreements, which ignored our people's rights, were disguised in their aspirations, and disregarded their will.

Official Says Hamas Arrest Not Coordinated With PA

JN2408140895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat and his spokesman, has stressed that the National Authority [Palestinian Authority — PA] is able to take over the occupied territories, and said Israel should withdraw from the West Bank and implement the agreement concluded with the Palestinian side.

He added that the NA is able to create a new reality, and is able to protect the Palestinian community. He denied the reports which said that the arrest of Hamas members in the West Bank has been coordinated with the NA, and said we have only heard about this subject from the media.

'Arafat Interviewed on Talks With Israel

NC2408181095 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 5

[Interview with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat by Ahmad Kamal-al-Din in Gaza on 19 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kamal-al-Din] We shall begin with the recent developments connected with Israel's threat to close Orient House and its repercussions for the peace process. Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal confirmed these threats on television today.

['Arafat] This is a flagrant violation of the peace treaty. Any infringement of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem or the Christian and Islamic holy places is a clear and flagrant violation that endangers the peace process. Definitely, we will react.

I do not believe that the Israeli government will do such a thing. It might resort to some harassments but it cannot close Orient House, which is a center for Palestinian figures in Jerusalem. My estimation is that this is only a kind of goading, because they know the Palestinian reaction will be strong. We will have popular, official, political, moral, and religious reaction. Following the decision to seize land in Jerusalem, I invited the Arab League to meet. The first unanimous Arab decision since the Gulf war was taken against these transgressions. I also invited the UN [Security Council] to meet. The United States used the veto for the first time against all the UN Security Council members. This means that the U.S. decision was isolated; it was one vote against 14 votes.

[Kamal-al-Din] What is your evaluation of the Palestinian Authority one year after its establishment?

['Arafat] I want to remind my brothers of the decision adopted by the Palestine National Council held in Egypt in 1974. The decision called for the establishment of a Palestinian authority on any liberated territory or any territory vacated by the Israelis. This homeland which the Oslo Accord brought about did not come from a vacuum; it was the outcome of the various developments through which the Arab nation passed.

[Kamal-al-Din] Will you attend the signing of the agreement in Washington on 9 September?

['Arafat] First of all, I hope we will reach an agreement. We are facing several impasses: Hebron, water, the withdrawal areas. All these are obstacles. The general elections were supposed to be held in July 1994. We are now in August 1995, but the elections have not been held yet. There is a 14-month delay in implementing the agreement. We called and will continue to call for the scrupulpous implementation of the agreements. The Israelis insist on not withdrawing from densely populated Palestinian areas. This means it will not be possible to hold elections. It is illogical that we will exclude the largest area, the West Bank, from these elections. Contacts are underway to bridge the opposing viewpoints. Just yesterday contacts were held, but they did not make progress on any level.

[Kamal-al-Din] How can this impasse be broken?

['Arafat] There is a limit for patience. Our Palestinian people have many options. No one should believe that we have no options. It is true that we signed "the peace of the brave," but this peace must come from two sides and not from only one. You in Egypt have experienced the trouble of negotiations with them. Although Egypt is the biggest Arab country, it faced these difficulties. We had expected this to happen.

[Kamal-al-Din] Is there still hope that these difficulties will be ovecome?

['Arafat] We hope so; otherwise, the very foundations of the peace process will collapse.

[Kamal-al-Din] What is the Palestinian Authority's stand toward the opponents of the Oslo Accord, such as the leftist Popular Front and the fundamentalist Hamas?

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['Arafat] We live a democratic life. We respect the views of the opposition. There are various interpretations by various parties of the Oslo Accord. We respect these parties, but the minority must respect the view of the majority. A large part of this opposition is merely ink on paper and does not have a real popular base.

[Kamal-al-Din] What is situation in Gaza now, socially and economically?

['Arafat] We received Gaza completely destroyed and almost without any infrastructure. We reported to work in offices made from cardboard instead of timber for nine months. Israel destroyed everything before we were handed Gaza and Jericho. They even pulled out railroad tracks and faucets. They completely destroyed the sewage system. We have fishermen but no harbor after Israel refused for 12 years to build a harbor for them. They treated us with the logic of force. We had no rights whatsoever.

We are now facing what the Algerian people faced before liberation. They faced the O.I.S. [abbreviation in Latin characters] after the first and second Evian agreements. It was the secret organization of the French Army. We are facing a public organization within the Israeli army opposed to the agreement.

We are facing difficult periods. Arab generosity has suddenly disappeared, especially from the Arab states who were greatly affected by the Gulf crisis. We have received many promises which have gone unfulfilled so far. But for small Palestinian businessmen, we would have faced a disaster by all standards. Our schools work three shifts daily and with a density of 60 to 65 students to a class. The hospitals have a capacity of half a bed for every 1,000 citizens. We have a water problem. Without the Egyptian bottled water, we would be a people without water. There is a housing crisis, a road crisis. Sir, our situation is bitter, bitter, bitter.

[Kamal-al-Din] Egyptian intellectuals have a declared and collective stand on normalization with the Zionist entity. What is your comment?

['Arafat] I respect any stand by Egyptian intellectuals. But I ask them to visit us to see the reality, then adopt their stand. Decisions should not be made without seeing what is happening at close range. The Egyptian National Folklore Group did a wonderful job performing here. When it sang for Jerusalem, I could not help but weep. They performed beautifully, touching the hearts. We need such contacts.

[Kamal-al-Din] Are there secret contacts to bridge the gap between the Palestinian political factions?

['Arafat] I say it frankly: Yes, there are secret contacts. I went to Egypt and asked for the mediation of the Muslim Brotherhood between us and Hamas. I also asked for the mediation of Islamic figures in Turkey, Morocco, Europe, and Yemen. Our aim is to show them the facts. I remind them that 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab called the al-Hudaybiyah peace treaty between the prophet and the Jews as the "peace of dani'ah." He told the prophet: "We reject al-dan'iah in our religion, O messenger of God." The prophet rebuked him and asked him to keep quiet. I tell them: The land is dearer than anything else.

'Arafat, Sha'th Meet With Israeli Economy Minister

JN2408142195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Dispatch by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said that his meeting with Israeli Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin, which was held at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon, was positive and constructive and was designed to promote the peace process by all means.

President 'Arafat asserted that the National Authority will never accept the killing of innocent civilians. He totally denounced the acts of terrorism and requested Minister Beilin to convey his condolences to the victims of the recent explosion in Ramat Eshkol in Jerusalem, and to convey his greetings to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

On his part, Beilin said there is no reason not to sign an agreement on 7 September. He pointed out that the issue is not that of signature.

Beilin added that he believes in the need to reach an agreement in the coming weeks. He thanked President 'Arafat and described as positive and important his meetings with the president and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation. He said this meeting focused on security issues and how to prevent the extremists from affecting the peace process.

Beilin and Sha'th held a meeting at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Gaza this morning. They discussed the latest developments of the peace process, the port and airport issues, and other issues.

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Fatah's al-Hasan Comments on Peace Talks

MM2208101995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p4

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] To what extent, in your opinion, would the raising of the "Palestinian Golan" issue by some responsible Palestinian officials at this stage be beneficial?

[Al-Hasan] We Palestinians of the Fatah opposition cling to the Palestinian lands and to every particle of earth of the Palestinian homeland. We are astonished to see any Palestinian, any responsible Palestinian official, raise the question of Al-Hammah, at this time when Syria has been demanding the return of all the lands occupied on the northern front in 1967. Since Syria has been demanding a return to the 4 June 1967 borders, then it is our duty to support the Syrian position and to hold in high esteem any stand that refuses to squander any piece of land, be it Syrian or Palestinian.

It is regrettable that those who have suddenly begun to outdo each other in talking about the Palestinian Golan and Al-Hammah are the same Palestinians who are partitioning the West Bank into several areas with area "A" being for the Palestinians, area "C" being for the Israelis, and area "B" being for both sides. This is at a time when we are supposed not to accept the partitioning of the Palestinian land in any form whatsoever or the holding of any bargaining over it. We are also surprised that this should take place at a time when the discussion of the question of Hebron had been deferred to a later stage, a fact which indicates readiness to bargain over it and readiness to offer concessions regarding it.

We support the Syrians and the Syrian negotiators and highly esteem their adherence to the return of all the Palestinian and non- Palestinian territories. Had every front (holding negotiations with Israelis] done so, the liberation of Gaza and the West Bank would not have been delayed until this time.

[Humaydi] Was this matter raised during your recent meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'?

[Al-Hasan] This question was not raised as a problem. But I anticipated matters and expressed our regret at the statements made by some responsible Palestinian officials and expressed our high esteem for the Syrian position of demanding the return of all lands. We concentrated on the need for Syria to seek the linking in the final solution between Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories and Israel's withdrawal from the Golan in the Syrian [peace] process.

[Humaydi] What was the Syrian response?

[Al-Hasan] The interaction was positive. Al-Shar' explained the difficulties that stand in the way of this linkage because one side [the Palestinians led by 'Arafat] has already begun to deal with the question [of the occupied lands not involved in the Syrian peace process], and it has been refusing to coordinate its efforts with those in the other [peace] processes.

We concentrated on the fact that Israel's aim for the agreement on the redeployment of forces was to defer negotiations on the final situation and the imposition of an Israeli fait accompli on the Palestinian territory and so the Palestinians would take the initiative in the coming years and the conditions at the time of the discussion of the final solution will not be so regrettable as they are now with regard to the negotiations on the Palestinian land. [sentence as published]

[Humaydi] Do you believe that opposition at present does serve a useful purpose?

[Al-Hasan] I have opposed the Madrid [Accord] and I have written a document under the title of "Return to the Springs," in which I reviewed the matters that have been settled and how they should have been settled. At the beginning, the opposition faced difficulties because the Palestinian people were led astray by talk about gains to be made through the Oslo [Accord]. The results of the Accord were not explained to the people at the time. It transpired from a survey of public opinion that only 10 percent of the people had been familiar with the Oslo [Accord]. However, things have changed now, as the people have begun to see the results of the Oslo [Accord] with regard to the land and water, particularly as the citizens knew that during the Intifadah agricultural output increased by 11 percent and industrial production by 3 percent, and that the former has dropped by 40 percent and the latter has become almost paralyzed [in the post- Intifadah period].

The conditions which the opposition had faced were not easy. We were confronted by internationally-supported negotiations. However, we have achieved one important thing, namely the frustration of the plans for a Palestinian-Palestinian internecine fighting, and made the masses see the facts before them and colonization began to be strongly opposed by the Palestinian people. We have also begun to see the Intifadah spread into detention camps and popular response has soared to the extent that some people felt as though the Intifadah has begun anew, had it not been for the intervention of the Authority's henchmen and their leading of people astray in the Junayd prison by giving them [false] promises.

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Everything needs an incubation period, followed by labor and finally by birth. I believe that the opposition's period of labor has gone too long. But we still might be able to create a mechanism that could polarize a wider circle of Palestinian groups and personalities to face up to the situation, because the implementation of the Oslo [Accord] has revealed the wrong things it involves, particularly with regard to the West Bank, where people have failed to obtain what they had obtained in Gaza.

[Humaydi] What is the aim behind your contacts with Hamas?

[Al-Hasan] We hold the attitude of the brothers in Hamas in high esteem, because they have shown self-restraint for which we thank them, and history will record this for them. They did not deal with events in a reaction manner. For what is the purpose of shaving the beard of [Mahmud] Al-Zahhar and the hair of [Mohammed] Abu Musamih by the [Palestinian Authority] police! This is a situation which we regret and feel disgusted at. We are confident that Hamas would have been capable of replying to this, but our continuous contacts with them persuaded them that popular internecine struggle was what the Israelis wanted.

[Humaydi] Would you be seeking new guarantees in this context from the Islamic Jihad?

[Al-Hasan] We cannot undertake any action that demands the cessation of confrontation with the Israelis as long as they continue to occupy our land. It is not our mission to ask people to respond to the Israeli demands. We hope the Islamic Movement would join the opposition front because it represents an important part of the Palestinian street.

Editorial Condemns Violence, Calls For Talks

TA2308163095 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Aug 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "The Success of Peace Will Rout Violence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How long will our region and its peoples be deprived of security and stability? This question is being asked today throughout the Palestinian territories and Israel. We reject and condemn yesterday's operation, which caused the death and injury of scores of Israeli civilians, just as we condemn the killing and wounding of Palestinians, because these acts — regardless of their source — push the two peoples' destiny and future to the brink and turn the region's climate of progress in the peace process into one of dark pessimism and anger. The people of the region need a climate of stability and a sense of security following long decades in which they witnessed only war, destruction, and suffering. These peoples' interests demand that acts of violence from whatever source be terminated. These acts hinder the peace process, increase our fear of the future, and threaten coming generations.

Therefore, the only way to end all forms of violence is to quickly end the conflict, implement the agreements, and avoid procrastination and the waste of time. Time works in favor of only those parties that reject the agreements. Instead of being preoccupied with bypass roads and the confiscation of land for this purpose, it behooves Israel to circumvent all parties that seek to destroy the peace process. Ending the conflict must not be ink on paper or a slogan that we raise here and there. It must be done through practical action and by removing all the causes of confrontation.

As much as the Israelis fear peace and the implementation of the agreements, the Palestinians find it more difficult to accept these agreements and fear that this process will come at their expense, especially when new lands are confiscated and when the Israeli Government gives a free hand to the settlers to wreak havoc and express their hatred.

Israel's policy, which can be described as lax, embarrasses all Palestinian circles that support the talks and the agreements. Yesterday's operation in Jerusalem should make the two sides more persistent in moving forward on the road to peace. If certain extremist Israeli quarters try to take revenge, the Israeli Government should prevent all parties from taking the law in their own hands.

The same applies to the Israeli Government, because it has imposed collective punishment on the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is something that opposition quarters on both sides want. Israel bears responsibility for the escalating situation. Therefore, it has a greater responsibility to try to save the peace process from collapse. The two sides have the responsibility to decrease, if not totally end, hostile acts on both sides. The great majority of the two peoples definitely wish to end all aspects of hostility and bridge the gap between them. This can only be done through confidence building, so that some kind of rapprochement is achieved and so that we may enter a new stage of coexistence and the building of normal relations between the two peoples. Needless to say, the two peoples' interest lies in finding a peaceful solution that will end the cycles of violence and thus end the suffering of the Palestinians. At the same time, the Israelis must ensure their security and stability.

If yesterday's horrifying incident shook the peace process, those who signed the peace agreement realized

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that the road would not be easy and that it is full of mines that must be dismantled or bypassed. We must not allow these obstacles to return us to square one or stop the process. Popular circles on both sides know that there is no retreat from the peace process and that the hands of the clock cannot be turned back.

Hawatimah Urges Meeting of PLO Boycotters

MM2108092995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Aug 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Hawatimah Calls Those Who Boycotted the PLO to a Meeting Under Qaddumi's Leadership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi will leave Damascus today after conducting a series of meetings with Syrian officials and Palestinian opposition leaders, in which he acquainted them with the draft of the "phased national program" which he had proposed after his boycott of the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Tunis.

Palestinian sources told AL-HAYAH that Qaddumi will not visit Beirut today as originally planned because his schedule did not coincide with that of Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. They added that he met yesterday in Damascus with Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP Deputy Secretary General Abu-'Ali Mustafa, al- Sa'iqah Secretary General 'Isam al-Qadhi, and Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] Leader Khalid al-Fahum for the second time. He is scheduled to meet again with al-Qadhi. The sources added that he "apprised the opponents of the Oslo Agreement and the peace negotiations of the phased national program and discussed with them the points it contained."

The sources pointed out that the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] General Command had told Qaddumi that "there was nothing new in the project, since they basically rejected the Oslo Agreement, whereas the DFLP viewed the project as an important start that must be followed by several practical steps." They added that Hawatimah proposed the following three-point plan:

"— To call all Executive Committee members to a meeting chaired by Abu-al-Lutf [Qaddumi], although it is expected that only those who boycotted the last Tunis meetings will attend.

"— To hold a roundtable for a debate to include all the participants' views in order to formulate a comprehensive national program based on the [Palestine] National Council [PNC] 1991 resolutions and the peace process.

"— To hold a popular referendum on the peace process and to call the PNC members for a meeting. If Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] agrees to return to the national line, he is welcome, otherwise the meeting will take place without him."

The sources reported that Qaddumi "had reservations regarding the project, although Hawatimah proposed using the phased national program as a starting point." They added that "Abu-al-Lutf did not announce his separation from 'Arafat, but proposed a corrective program to be discussed within the PLO institutions."

DFLP sources told AL-HAYAH that the meeting took place in the presence of Executive Committee Member Shafiq al-Hut, Fatah Central Committee Members Hani al-Hasan and Muhammad Jihad, PLO Representative to Damascus Mahmud al-Khalidi, and Fatah Revolutionary Council Member Ghazi al-Husayni. Also present were DFLP Political Bureau Members Dawud Talhami, Qays al-Samarra'i (Abu- Layla), and Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahim.

Prior to his meeting with Hawatimah, Qaddumi said that "the political decline in the Palestinian arena had reached a very low point after the approval of the Oslo Agreement II" [as published], adding that he had been observing for a long time "Israel's lack of commitment to the basis of a settlement and the signed agreements, its attempts at falsifying texts, and its consolidation of the settlements."

The head of the PLO Political Department wondered about "the point of pursuing the talks. They must be suspended; for this reason I boycotted (the recent Tunis) meetings after it became impossible to continue in the light of Israel's continuous barbaric actions." He added that his meetings with Palestinian officials in Damascus "were meant to organize the work and combined efforts, to protect the PLO institutions as a moral entity, and to initiate a move to revitalize the institutions."

On his part, Hawatimah called for a "meeting of the majority of Executive Committee members" who boycotted the Tunis meetings "to review the Palestinian situation, suspend the current negotiations, and initiate a comprehensive national dialogue." He hoped "that the Qaddumi talks would rise to the level of the events especially as the date of signing the agreement on the redeployment of the occupation forces on the West Bank is drawing near...and it is just a rearrangement of the occupation."

Official sources said that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met yesterday with Qaddumi in the presence of al-Hut, al-Hasan, Jihad, and al-Khalidi. They added that the meeting, which lasted three hours, dealt with

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"developments in the Arab arena and developments in the peace process in the region."

Qaddumi's press spokesman Anwar 'Abd-al-Hadi told AL-HAYAH that Abu-al-Lutf "explained the ideas contained in the project in view of the difficult circumstances that the Palestinian movement is experiencing and the total obduracy it is facing on the Israeli side even in the noncompliance with the Oslo Agreement and the attempts at minimizing the agreement as far as possible." He added that Qaddumi said that he "supported the peace that Syria wanted and that we are doing everything possible to strengthen the Palestinian negotiating position and to stimulate the PLO institutions, especially since we sense the Arab lack of support for the PLO." 'Abd-al-Hadi said that the Syrian foreign minister had pointed to "the importance of the project and the need to implement it" and added that "he understood that its importance rested with its implementation."

Shaykh Yasin Calls For Palestinian Dialogue

JN2508083695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, spiritual leader of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has called for reaching a formula which would act as a basis for dialogue among all the Palestinian people's factions, particularly between the National Authority and the Hamas Movement.

Shaykh Yasin considers this formula the only option to safeguarding the Palestinian people's unity, safety, and future.

It is worth mentioning that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is suffering from severe pains due to his continued detention.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Front has called for safeguarding national unity and for entrenching it among the sons of the one Palestinian people.

The front stressed that commitment to this is not only a political issue, but also a process which is based on adherence to Islam and the instructions of the prophet, may God's peace and blessing be upon him.

It is worth noting that the Islamic Front is a new political current which will announce its official inception in a statement today.

Al-Husayni on Supervision of Holy Shrines

TA2408182295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA member in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio, by Fayiz 'Umar in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian Authority [PA] member in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio, has said that the Jordanian Government continues to supervise and run the affairs of religious shrines in East Jerusalem in cooperation with the PA. In an interview with our correspondent Fayiz 'Umar, al-Husayni said that Israeli security sources were wrong to suggest that supervision over the Islamic holy sites be totally Jordanian.

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] In fact, the Islamic Awqaf in Jerusalem is still under Jordanian supervision. There is a Palestinian understanding of this matter, and we have no problem. Consequently, there is nothing new. The Israelis are suggesting something that has existed from the outset.

['Umar] So the interest of the Ministry of Awqaf Affairs is limited only to the rest of the West Bank towns?

[Al-Husayni] Yes.

['Umar] As for the affairs of the holy shrines inside Jerusalem, this is a Jordanian responsibility?

[Al-Husayni] As far as these institutions are concerned, they are the responsibility of the Palestinian Islamic Awqaf, which is currently run by us.

['Umar] Do you see the Jordanians really taking care of these holy shrines?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. I think that as Arabs and Muslims and as a government that was present in Jerusalem for a certain period, they do take care of them, but this does not contradict the Palestinian position. They, too, consider Jerusalem the Palestinian capital.

['Umar] So what is the PA's role in managing the affairs of the holy shrines in Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] There is complete coordination and understanding between the Palestinians and the Jordanians on this issue. When we reach the stage in which the occupation of East Jerusalem ends, then it will be possible to reach a Palestinian-Jordanian understanding on these issues.

['Umar] The same security sources claim that Jerusalem figures are running a second municipality in East Jerusalem, alongside that of West Jerusalem. They have

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called it the shadow municipality of Jerusalem. Is there such a thing?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, there is no such thing or, rather, there is nothing new. The Jerusalem municipality headed by Mr. Rawhi al- Khatib operated prior to the deportation of the late Rawhi al-Khatib in 1967. He continued his work while he was in Amman. After he returned and until his death, he supported Palestinian institutions and Palestinian society in Jerusalem. Following his death, this responsibility was assumed by his deputy. Consequently, he is fulfilling the same role that was fulfilled in the past. Israel witnessed this and did not object at all.

['Umar] Do you give legitimacy to these people to run East Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] I say they had a specific role to fulfill. They could not grant building or demolition permits, but they always fulfilled their role in helping and supporting Palestinian society and institutions in Jerusalem. They still do. Consequently, I do not see any sort of change or any form of conflict with the work of the Jerusalem municipality. [end recording]

Security Chief on Efforts To Curb 'Terrorist Elements'

JN2408151695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Report on interview with Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Palestinian National Security Forces, by Yasir 'Atiyah from "With the Midday Events" on 24 August; place not given—recorded; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atiyah] The Palestinian Authority [PA] believes that it is time to unify efforts to curb terrorist elements, which moved their activity to the self-rule areas after the Israeli public security succeeded in unearthing the perpetrators of the two suicide bombings in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. The Israeli public security had conveyed intelligence information to the Palestinian National Security Forces that Yahya 'Ayyash, known as the engineer, who masterminded these acts of terrorism, was now present in the Gaza Strip. Therefore, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PA, held an emergency meeting of the Palestinian Higher Security Council late last night. It was attended by officials in charge of the various Palestinian security organs. During the meeting, 'Arafat instructed the conferees to take decisive measures to apprehend Yahya 'Ayyash and to prevent acts of aggression from the self-rule area. This is what Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Palestinian National Security Forces, told me during my morning interview with him.

[Yusuf] "The president yesterday gave instructions to the security organs in this regard, and search is now under way. We are determined not to ban extremists from using our areas as a base for their actions inside or outside these areas. Direct instructions were given to these organs to unveil anybody involved in this issue."

['Atiyah] Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf prefers not to disclose details of the secret measures the PA is taking to apprehend Yahya 'Ayyash.

[Yusuf] "All measures are secret, and it is premature to talk about them so that we can arrive at positive results. Yahya 'Ayyash is just one person, and trying to find a person is like trying to find a needle in a hay stack. So, this needs intensive effort and search."

['Atiyah] Thirty seven members of the terrorist cell that masterminded the two recent acts of terrorism in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem came from the northern parts of the West Bank and from Hebron area. The members of this cell were unveiled after the apprehension of 'Abd-al-Nasir Shakir 'Isa from the Balatah camp, Nabulus District, who rented a house in the city of Nabulus to use as a store and a laboratory to prepare explosive charges. Hence, several question marks have surfaced regarding the ability of the Palestinian security organs to confront hostile actions, which may be planned in West Bank cities.

[Yusuf] "Undoubtedly, the security organs have made a major security achievement in confronting extremism. We want to increase efforts to put an end to this bloody tragedy. We have to put a decisive end to all these acts in Gaza and Jericho now and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the future in order to make more progress on the way to peace."

['Atiyah] Maj. Gen. Yusuf adds that future cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian security apparatuses will yield its fruits.

[Yusuf] "The responsibility does not lie with us alone. Rather, it is the responsibility of both sides in the first place. Both sides want to provide total security for their citizens. This requires coordination and cooperation, which are, in my view, taking place, and we may need more in the future. However, we will put a positive end to extremism."

['Atiyah] The security organs had conveyed information to Palestinian organs on the presence of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist organizations in the self-rule area of Jericho. Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf stressed the need to intensify efforts to control the situation.

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[Yusuf] "Jericho is a small city, and any search in it will be easy. I believe that security forces in Jericho will do what they can to maintain security and carry out their duties."

['Atiyah] The security siege of the West Bank was extended until Sunday morning and a security siege was imposed on the Jericho area for security reasons.

Fatah's 'Abd-al-Raziq on 'Ayyash Capture, Nabulus Strife

TA2408114795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Fatah Supreme Committee, in the Gaza Strip, by correspondent David Gilbo'a, in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Gilbo'a] Shalom, senior Fatah official Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq.

['Abd-al-Raziq] Shalom.

[Gilbo'a] You must have heard about the public argument in Israel about the Shin Bet's interrogation by violent shaking. Do the Palestinians argue about interrogation techniques?

['Abd-al-Raziq] Regarding the Israeli or the Palestinian security services?

[Gilbo'a] Both.

['Abd-al-Raziq] I think we have not reached the point where we should debate such a matter.

[Gilbo'a] Why?

['Abd-al-Raziq] We are an embryonic authority, and such things are not high on our list of priorities.

[Gilbo'a] Do you mean a regime may do anything, use any interrogating methods, injure, torture? Are there no limits?

['Abd-al-Raziq] If you think 20-25 years back, you will find that your own Shin Bet interrogators used methods that are totally unacceptable. In those days, however, no one spoke about them. You do not even have to go 20 years back — no one spoke about these things only a few years ago.

[Gilbo'a] Your reference to methods allegedly used by the Israeli Shin Bet 20 years ago is odd. The Palestinians are now in charge of security. On the one hand, there have been serious charges of prisoner torture, and on the other, perhaps you have not been trying very hard, because as we all know, you have not yet apprehended Engineer 'Ayyash.

['Abd-al-Raziq] Before there were reports about his being in Gaza, the engineer stayed unhampered in the West Bank. I think your Shin Bet and your troops have a very serious advantage in this respect, and yet there are many wanted men who are still in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as they have been for the last two, three, or more years.

[Gilbo'a] Yet when our Shin Bet operates in Judaea and Samaria, it is perceived as a foreign rule's force. You are the masters there; you are part of the Gazan people. Is the job not easier for you?

['Abd-al-Raziq] It is true that we are part of the people, but these individuals are wanted men in every sense, and your methods are more advanced than the Palestinian Authority's. In any event, I think this matter should be resolved, too. An enormous effort must be made to make sure that these people are locked up, that they disappear. I believe it is possible with internal Palestinian consent. [passage omitted]

[Gilbo'a] We have heard a report that some Fatah activists fired shots at the Nabulus mayor's house. There were no casualties in this instance, but an al-Najah professor was wounded last week. We have been told that he was shot because he had criticized 'Arafat's policy. It is not very proper, is it?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I think the situation in Nabulus today reflects a certain disarray. The situation is not entirely as it should be. There are various squads and individuals who would like to control the city. These people fire their guns and cause a bit of commotion. I think this phenomenon should be stopped. People should make an effort to have it stopped at once, because it causes damage and is bad for us. When the cities are handed over to the Palestinian Authority, order will be restored. You may remember that the same happened in Gaza before the Palestinian police took over.

[Gilbo'a] Thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Raziq] You are welcome.

Israel To Close Orient House

JN2408090195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli ministerial committee decided today to close a number of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, including Orient House. Press sources cited the Israeli police minister as saying he will sign the closure decision within 36 hours. Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal, so-called Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and Israeli Justice Minister David Liba'i attended the meeting.

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Faysal al-Husayni received an official German delegation headed by (Peter Denkins), head of the Middle East department at the German Foreign Ministry, at Orient House this morning. They reviewed the Israeli encroachments on Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Al- Husayni briefed the delegation on the letter of assurances Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent to his Norwegian counterpart, in which he pledged not to harm the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

The German delegation voiced its firm position on Jerusalem, considering it an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. The Palestinians and Germans discussed German aid to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Al-Husayni urged the German minister to include the PA in the program of loans Germany previously granted to Israel.

It is noteworthy that Germany contributes 28 percent of the European Union's allocations to the Palestinian people. Germany is also involved in several projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Al-Husayni on Decision To Close Establishments

JN2308170595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Ministerial Committee today decided to close a number of Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem, including Orient House.

Press sources quoted Israeli police minister as saying that he will sign the closure decision within 36 hours.

Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, commented on these measures and said:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] This statement, and the manner in which it has been issued, is provocative, because the conferees there [in the committee] know full well that the Palestinian National Authority and the PLO do not conduct activities that violate the agreement concluded in Oslo. Such a measure will cause shock, and regrettably, the Israeli Government seems to be gradually bowing to the Israeli right wing which basically aims to destroy the peaceful political process, and launches this campaign against Orient House in order to destroy this political process. Such a step is a move toward destroying the political process and surrendering to the right wing which is hostile to this political process. It seems that Israel is trying to confront us before the negotiations on Jerusalem with three steps of isolatation. The first step is to isolate the Palestinian people from Jerusalem through closure so that they will get used to the absence of Jerusalem from their daily life. They are currently trying to make the daily dealings with Jerusalem very difficult so that the Palestinians will deal with other centers outside Jerusalem. This is the first step in the isolation policy. The second step is harassing the Palestinian establishments, besieging them, and then isolating these establishments from the Palestinian people in Jerusalem so that the Palestinian people in Jerusalem will eventually deal with Israeli rather than Palestinian establishments. The third step is trying to isolate the political activities of the Palestinian establishments from the international arena in order to make the world deal politically with the Palestinians without Jerusalem. This is clear, and the international position supports the Palestinian position. The world did not recognize East Jerusalem as the capital or part of the capital of the State of Israel, and considers East Jerusalem part of the occupied Palestinian territories which should be the next capital of the Palestinian people. The Israeli Government should not allow itself to be an instrument in the hands of the Israeli rightists in a way that the future of the region be decided by the mayor and not the prime minister. [end recording]

Faysal al-Husayni received an official German delegation at Orient House this morning. The delegation is led by (Peter Wilkins,] head of the Middle East Department at the German Foreign Ministry.

Talks at the meeting discussed the Israeli aggressions against the Palestinian establishments in the holy city. Al-Husayni presented the delegation with the letter of assurances which Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent to his Norwegian counterpart, in which he pledged not to encroach on the Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem.

The German delegation also expressed its firm position on Jerusalem, in its capacity as an inseparable part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

The two sides also discussed the German assistance to the National Authority. Al-Husayni urged the German official to include the National Authority in the loans program which Germany used to give to Israel.

Germany contributes 28 percent of the European Union's assistance to the Palestinian people. Germany is implementing several projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Searches for 'Engineer' Stepped Up in Gaza

TA2308114195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] sources said that in the wake of the Jerusalem bombing attack, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the

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Palestinian security services to step up the searches for terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash, the so-called engineer.

It is assumed that he is hiding out in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Israeli and PA sources confirm that 'Ayyash is operated by a leader of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm based in Damascus.

PLO's Qaddumi Cited on Damascus Discussions

MM2108153095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Aug 95 pp1,6

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] What would you say about the Palestinian responsible officials' claims to the "Palestinian Golan," which Syria has been claiming within the framework of its demands for Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines?

[Qaddumi] The raising of this question is not proper from the point of view of timing. Once the Golan is liberated, then this question could be raised. But it should not be raised at the present stage, particularly as Syria has been stressing the need for Israel's withdrawal from all the territories it occupied in 1967 including the (Palestinian) Golan.

In my opinion, the Arab land wherever it may be is my land and I do not differentiate between Syrian land or Palestinian land irrespective of whether it belonged to this state or that. I am a pan-Arab man, and consequently I see no reason for raising this question in terms of either time or occasion.

The essential thing is for Israel to return the Golan to Syria. After that, there can be no problem at all,

[Humaydi] Did you raise this matter during your meeting with [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'?

[Qaddumi] No, we have not discussed this matter yet. We have talked about the current situation and the stumbling taking place in regard to the Palestinian [peace] process. We pointed out that the Syrian attitude does serve the Palestinian position, because the Syrian attitude is determined to ensure the implementation of the bases on which the peace process was founded when it was first initiated by President (George) Bush, namely, "land for peace" and complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories including Jerusalem. The Syrian attitude of adherence to these bases will serve the cause of peace and will also serve the Palestinian process and our attempts to salvage the stumbling Palestinian process.

Syria wants a peace that is in line with the bases of the peace process and the Madrid conference. Israel, however, has renounced these bases and has been trying to impose a state of fait accompli, and this is something which Syria rejects.

[Humaydi] What are the reasons for your boycott of the recent Tunis meetings?

[Qaddumi] We did not boycott these meetings. We are extremely anxious to safeguard the meetings of the Executive Committee, particularly in Tunisia, the headquarters of the [Palestine Liberation] Organization. I asked the brothers to remain in Amman because an economic action think-tank, comprising a number of experts, was meeting to discuss the development of projects in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is the reason for my absence from the Tunis meetings. Furthermore, I had learned that they were planning to discuss some secondary issues, whereas I am opposed to the Oslo Accord and anything that stems from the Oslo [Accord] is not acceptable to me.

[Humaydi] Then what about the coincidence of your failure to attend with the holding of meetings to discuss an important issue that pertains to the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank and with your putting forward of the "phased national program" plan?

[Qaddumi] I did not believe that that question [of the Israeli forces' redeployment] is important. This is because many of the agreements that were concluded were agreements I did not approve of because they were a by-product of the Oslo Accord, on which I had reservations from the very beginning. Besides, I felt that the Palestinian process was stumbling, and my feelings were based on official statements issued by the Palestine Authority itself, the statements made during the numerous meetings of the Executive Committee on 16 March, and the official statement issued by the brothers in the Authority which said that Israel has undermined the basis of the settlement. In view of all this, what is the point in continuing the negotiations?

They told us a long time ago that Israel has not been carrying out the Accord, has been deferring scheduled dates and has not been honoring the commitments it had undertaken. We should have suspended the negotiations. I talked to them during the March meetings about the need to suspend political negotiations.

Some have asked me whether we should also suspend the other agreements that pertain to coordination over our daily demands. I replied that these too should be suspended. But since that time, they stopped listening to me. So, why should we keep repeating what we have already said? Hence our putting forward our plan.

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[Humaydi] Are you really prepared to work together with Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], and Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]?

[Qaddumi] I constantly feel that, being responsible for Palestinian diplomatic affairs, it is my duty to contact all the organizations which constitute the PLO. This is my right and one of the duties which I should perform. I believe that at this particular time, when I feel that the Palestinian process has collapsed, I have to put forward my views and offer plans that would salvage the situation, and this is part of the PLO which represents Palestinian legitimacy [sentence as published]. According to the Palestine National Council [PNC], the PLO and the (Executive) Committee are the political and legislative points of reference for the Palestinian Authority.

[Humaydi] Then what do you say about this legitimacy's approval of the peace accords, the latest being that of the redeployment of [Israeli] forces?

[Qaddumi] These have not been approved so far and no official announcement of approval has been made. As I have said, we object to these accords not only because they conflict with the Oslo Accord but also because they violate the basis of the settlement. Israel must withdraw without any talk about redeployment or no redeployment. It must withdrawal from Palestinian territory. This is the first point of our reservations about the Oslo Accord.

[Humaydi] Is your plan based on the support of the Palestinians abroad?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian people are one. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is the decision of the PNC, which is the Palestinian parliament in exile. The Palestinian people inside and outside [the territories] are under the PLO's command.

[Humaydi] What is the nature of the recent tightening measures taken against the PLO's offices abroad?

[Qaddumi] There is a financial tightening on the PLO's offices and embassies. They have stopped providing funds for these institutions. I have constantly been talking about this subject in my official stands.

[Humaydi] Were your Palestinian meetings in Damascus confined to the organizations affiliated to the PLO?

[Qaddumi] Yes, only to those.

[Humaydi] But you also met with Hamas representative in Damascus Abu-Muhammad Mustafa for about two hours?

[Qaddumi] We did actually meet with him and exchanged views, particularly as the brothers in Hamas have been facing many problems with the Palestinian Authority. We said that the brothers in Hamas were part of the national movement and (we are) against any repressive measures taken against Hamas.

[Humaydi] Did you discuss any guarantees that would contribute to the implementation of the peace accords?

[Qaddumi] There are no guarantees in political action. It is not easy to provide such guarantees. (What is wanted is) the halting of any deterioration in relations between the two sides. For we have affirmed that we reject anything that is adopted against Hamas, because it is part of the national movement. We are working hard to stop the adoption of anything that would harm the Hamas movement. The proposed agreements between the [Palestinian] Authority and Hamas must be taken into consideration so that relations between them become harmonious. There are proposed agreements and taking them into consideration gives relations some sort of balance and prevents any side engaging in aggression against the other, thus leaving each side to work in its field of action.

[Humaydi] Do you think that Hamas is prepared to stop its military operations pending the widening of the implementation of the Oslo Accord?.

[Qaddumi] Nobody has asked Hamas to suspend its military operations. But as the Authority has responsibility for Gaza and Jericho, Hamas avoids launching any strikes in these areas. As to the other areas of the West Bank, Hamas has the right to do whatever it deems necessary to resist the occupation.

[Humaydi] What is the nature of this resistance?

[Qaddumi] All forms of resistance.

[Humaydi] Does it include military action?

[Qaddumi] I have said all forms without exception. As long as there is a an Israeli occupation, it is the right of the Palestinians to defend themselves and eliminate the occupation. This is one of the precepts of international legitimacy and international law.

[Humaydi] What are the geographical dimensions of the military action?

[Qaddumi] The West Bank.

[Humaydi] Excluding the lands occupied in 1948?

[Qaddumi] That is another matter.

[Humaydi] How is the question of these lands being dealt with?

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[Qaddumi] This question is not under discussion. They [the Palestinian Authority] have their own methods. We agree with them and share their feelings, but they have their own methods and their own way of dealing with things.

Al-Khatib Appointed Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan

JN2208204695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday issued a decision appointing 'Umar al-Khatib, also known as Abu-Shamikh, as ambassador of the State of Palestine, the PLO, and the Palestinian Authority in Amman. Al-Khatib, who was the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Jordan, will replace al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, who was appointed secretary general of the Palestinian Presidency.

In a statement to the press, 'Umar al-Khatib said he will perform his duty to serve the Palestinian people and foster Jordanian-Palestinian relations so that they will continue to be distinguished and special. Al-Khatib added that Jordan has welcomed his appointment as ambassador at the Hashemite court.

Al-Husayni Receives German Minister, Asks for Loans

JN2508084395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian Authority [PA] official charged with the Jerusalem file, asked Carl-Dieter Spranger, German minister for economic cooperation, to include the PA in the program of loans which Germany used to grant to Israel. Al-Husayni made this request during his meeting with the German minister at Orient House in occupied Jerusalem yesterday.

For his part, Spranger reiterated the firm German position which considers Jerusalem an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

Syria, Iraq Said Not To Admit Palestinian Students

JN2408054495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus news reports say that the Syrian Government has ordered its universities not to admit Palestinian students holding the General Secondary School Certificate [GSSC] issued by the Palestinian Authority [PA].

The Iraqi Government has also officially instructed its universities not to recognize the GSSC issued by the PA.

Assailant Caught After Snatching Policeman's Gun

TA2308154495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago, a Palestinian snatched the gun of a Palestinian policeman not far from the Netzarim junction, within the boundaries of the autonomy in the Gaza Strip, and fled into the boundaries of the autonomy. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that according to Palestinian sources, the gun snatcher was caught after a short chase. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned from the Palestinian Security Service that the gun snatcher was trying to carry out a suicide attack in Netzarim.

Paper Assails Press Law, Defends Policy

TA2208150595 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Why Punish AL-QUDS?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Palestinian press law was issued, with all its clauses about freedom of the press, the belief was that it was a big step forward and that the Palestinian press would develop and flourish, away from a dark climate and practices divorced of freedom of the press and democracy.

The ink with which the Palestinian press law was written had hardly dried — a law which at the time was welcomed by everyone — when the practices carried out two nights ago against this newspaper proved that this law is no more than ink on paper and empty rhetoric. Readers were surprised that AL-QUDS was not available to them in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. All this, without any known reason or overt justification for the decisions.

Where was the new press law two nights ago, and why were its provisions not put into effect?

Over the years AL-QUDS opened its arms to all political trends and beliefs stemming from the soil of this homeland. It was and continues to be a conduit for various contradictory views and opinions. Moreover, it followed the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority with a spirit of optimism and hope and with aspirations of a promising future for our people. Therefore, ordinary citizens and the man in the street are surprised when a single Palestinian hand is raised against this newspaper by these unjustified measures, which first and foremost harm the lofty Palestinian image.

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Despite the pain, we fervently hope that this was a transitory incident that will not be repeated, because AL-QUDS has never been a party in the disputes against any Palestinian side, rather through its long history it has served as the Palestinian people's voice expressing their national unity and aspiration for a free and dignified life in a climate of respect for the opinion of others. It did so with responsibility and full awareness of the importance of solidarity and cooperation between all compatriots in their various political tendencies, affiliations, and beliefs.

Labor Minister Comments on Joint Statement

MM2108090395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 95 p 2

[Interview with Palestinian Labor Minister Samir Ghawshah by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Labor Minister Samir Ghawshah stated that what the PLO Executive Committee discussed during its meeting in Tunis the day before yesterday was only a joint statement and not an agreement as some people thought. Popular Struggle Front Leader Ghawshah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the committee did not approve the statement but discussed its contents and approved the Palestinian position in the statement, which was different from the Palestinian [as published] position on some issues.

Regarding the phased national program proposed by Faruq Qaddumi head of the PLO Political Department, Ghawshah said: This matter is now outdated and was proposed when we were outside the homeland. Ghawshah said he supported the opposition's right to express its views but within the framework of the PLO and while respecting its institutions and attending its meetings.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your opinion of the new partial agreement?

[Ghawshah] What was issued was a joint statement and not an agreement. This statement contains a review of the Palestinian and Israeli positions. In this review, there are noticeably some issues such as principles and broad general lines that have been agreed. There are also some issues that need to be negotiated and agreed upon as well as issues on which there is disagreement and which have been postponed for further negotiation. We will therefore pursue the negotiations with the Israeli side to try to reach specific formulas to be consolidated in the shape of an agreement. It will then be possible to propose this matter for final approval.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There are several misgivings on the Palestinian side regarding some points of the joint statement giving away land and stripping sovereignty.

[Ghawshah] There are three distinct cases.... In area "A," which comprises six major cities, the civilian and security powers will be in the Palestinians' hands. In area "B" civilian powers and the police force in the first phase will be in the Palestinians' hands, while security matters will temporarily remain in the Israelis' hands. After several months, the situation will be reviewed so that this area "B" becomes area "A." Then there is area "C" which contains uninhabited areas, and where powers will be transferred but this will be in three stages.

There is no doubt that we are in a transitional phase at present. Sovereignty in its comprehensive sense will be achieved [only] when we reach the final solution.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There are fundamental issues such as water, which were left for a tripartite commission — Palestinian, Israeli, and U.S.

[Ghawshah] The issues that were left to this commission concern water, the economy, and political cooperation, on the grounds that these are disputed issues on which U.S. participation could help reach a solution.

This depends of course on further negotiations, and at the same time, if the United States can act as a fair mediator, this could be a helpful factor to reach a solution, but if the American position remains as it is, that is to say closer to the role of an observer at the best of times, and in fact still biased in favor of Israel, this would extend the duration of the negotiations and would leave matters in a state of deterioration and uncertainty in the Middle East.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is then the significance of the PLO Executive Committee's meetings in Tunis?

[Ghawshah] The significance of these meetings is that the PLO and the Executive Committee are the competent authorities and that the Palestinian people are passing through difficult times and harsh circumstances. Therefore it is natural for the Executive Committee to be briefed on the details of what took place during the negotiations so that it can study the matter and issue the appropriate directives for the good of the Palestinian people.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does this partial agreement fit in with the positions of the Popular Struggle Front that you lead?

[Ghawshah] We are saying that what is proposed at present is a joint statement defining positions. Basically

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what emerged in the Palestinian positions was part of the general reservations that we emphasize. We also have wider observations, and it is not possible to reject or accept an agreement that has not materialized. Consequently, we await the crystallization of the agreement before giving an unequivocal and final opinion.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your opinion of what came in the joint statement, separating the process of redeployment from the release of Palestinian detainees?

[Ghawshah] First, concerning the matter of redeployment in the major cities, my understanding is that it is not confined to the six cities mentioned in the joint statement. There are several other cities affected by the redeployment. When we talk of Bethlehem, for example, this also includes the cities of Bayt Jala and Bayt Sahur. Also, when we mention the city of Ramallah, we cannot dissociate it from the city of al-Birah.

As for the matter of the detainees, what is clear in fact is that Israel does not respect the commitments it made when it signed the Declaration of Principles Agreement.... What is happening now in the negotiations is the redrafting of the Oslo Agreement in a new form and with new signatories that would conform to Israel's demands. However, we still abide by the Oslo Agreement and consider it the basis despite our reservations and its gaps and shortcomings.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your view regarding Faruq Qaddumi's call for a Palestinian government in exile?

[Ghawshah] This is outdated and was proposed when we were outside the homeland.... There is now a National Authority and we have established a Palestinian entity which is being consolidated into an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Following boycott of the Executive Committee's meetings and his unveiling of a new political initiative, there will be an increase in the size of the Palestinian opposition. How do you see the role of this opposition in the present context? And can it play an effective role?

[Ghawshah] We respect the opposition's views and its right to express its point of view in the appropriate democratic process and style. We have different points of view. I think that to be devoted to the PLO is to be devoted to its institutions and to participation and struggle within the framework of the institutions themselves. Therefore, this requires all members to attend the organization's meetings, and the mere presence of members of the opposition gives the organization enhanced effectiveness.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about what came in the joint statement concerning amending the charter before January 1996, as Israel is demanding?

[Ghawshah] The amendment of the charter falls under the jurisdiction of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and no one has the right to deputize for the PNC or to make any decision in its stead.

When the PNC meets, in accordance with its statutes with predefined conditions to amend the charter or even the statutes of the PLO, it needs to hold an extraordinary meeting and will require a two-thirds majority; also it must follow several legal procedures.

Nabulus Patrolled by 60 PA Policemen

95AA0233A Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
12 Jul 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus (AFP) — A AFP correspondent reported yesterday that about 60 Palestinian policemen are in Nabulus awaiting a Palestinian-Israeli agreement to extend the self-rule in the West Bank.

The members of the group, who wore formal Palestinian police uniforms and the insignia of the Nabulus municipality, began patrolling the city under the command of a Palestinian officer Monday.

According to Nabulus municipality sources, this group is part of 500 Palestinians from the Nabulus area who have recently undergone security training in the Jericho self-rule area in preparation for their deployment in the areas to be vacated by the Israeli Army in the West Bank when an agreement is reached.

The sources added that a decision has been made to deploy these 60 policemen temporarily under the municipality's supervision. They conduct patrols in the city without interfering in its affairs.

Israel and the PLO are holding negotiations in an attempt to reach an agreement to extend the self-rule area in the West Bank on 25 of this month.

In a later development, the civil administration in the West Bank said that the Nabulus municipality has not received permission to run police patrols. Ghassan al-Shak'ah, chairman of the Nabulus municipal committee, said the reports about the presence of Palestinian policemen or municipal inspectors maintaining order in the city are untrue. Municipal workers were on the city streets welcoming Patriarch Michel Sabbah, who visited Nabulus yesterday, he said.

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Housing Ministry Prepares 'Master Plan'

95AA0233B Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Jul 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza (WAFA)—The Housing Ministry, in conjunction with the Planning and International Cooperation Ministry, is preparing a master plan showing the population, agricultural, tourism, and industrial zones.

Dr. Majid al-Bayya', director general of the ministry's scientific research, planning, and development, explained that the ministry is seeking to promote investment in industrial projects by providing land in industrial zones, with the approval of the other pertinent ministries.

Dr. al-Bayya' explained that the ministry has established a system for the housing societies through which it provides free, suitable land for housing units. He noted that the ministry also offers land at low prices to encourage construction and provide housing units, particularly for persons returning to the self-rule areas and for needy people.

He declared that the ministry is preparing a study to finance housing. When it is completed, people can receive mortgages to build or buy houses from the Palestinian housing bank in cooperation with the ministry.

He noted that the ministry is trying to make available some land in the camps to absorb the needy brothers who return to the self-rule area.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Water Dispute Said Reached by Israel, Palestinians

Tzur Reports 'Agreement in Principle'

TA2408142195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a breakthrough in the water dispute between Israel and the Palestinians in the Elat talks. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said an agreement in principle has been reached on the issue: The Palestinians' water rights will be discussed in the permanent settlement talks, but Israel agreed to state in the interim agreement that the Palestinians have water rights. The talks on the issue will resume in Elat next week.

Tzur on Water Accord, Supervision

TA2408164295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur by Yig'al Ravid; place and date not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ravid] We would like to ask you what sort of water we will be drinking following the peace accord?

[Tzur] I would first like to tell you that we have still not decided on quotas. I know that there are those who are trying to frighten us. It is obvious that the Palestinians will have to get water in order to have what to drink. We also know that there are still unexploited water reserves in the eastern aquifer. On Sunday [27 August], the committee headed by Noah Kinarti will begin to discuss the issue of quotas. We keep repeating in all the negotiations that we are not dealing with the redistribution of water but with the guarantee of water sources in order to provide sufficient water for the population's needs. I do not believe there will be additional water for agricultural use, because even in Israel there is an annual reduction in water for agriculture and transfer for home use. The agreement reached says that the issue of rights will be discussed in the permanent settlement. On Sunday, the committee will begin to discuss the issue of quotas. It is true that that involves not only quantities but also ensuring supervision of the drilling.

[Ravid] How will that be done?

[Tzur] There will have to be joint supervision, just as there are joint security patrols, after an agreement is reached on quantities.

[Ravid] In other words, the water issue has also become a security issue.

[Tzur] Water is the most political issue of all because there is a shortage of water and water is linked to life. There is no doubt that we will not be able to leave the area without supervisory measures to prevent drilling. Gaza is not a good example, because we have nothing to do with its aquifer, which is separate. Furthermore, it is very simple to drill in the Gaza Strip because the water is very close to the surface, while in our area one must drill deep, and such drilling cannot be hidden.

I believe we have an honorable solution, as is required, which will provide water for the growing population's needs, so that we do not return to the scenes we witnessed in Hebron. In any event, in the coming years we will all be busy trying to create new water sources from sewage, desalination, etc. I believe the way was

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opened up today to search for an honorable and common means to assure water for them and us.

Official on 'Breakthrough' Accord

NC2408201395 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu- 'Ala', minister of economy and trade with the Palestinian Authority and chief Palestinian negotiator, in Elat, by Antoine 'Awn, in the MBC television studio in London; live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Awn] Abu-'Ala', you agreed with the Israelis to put aside the dispute over water shares to facilitate the expansion of self-rule. Is this the first fruits of the Taba agreement?

[Quray'] In fact, the agreement is not this. I consider the agreement we reached today as important. This is the first time we obtained from the Israelis a recognition of Palestinian rights to water in the West Bank. We obtained this in a very clear and logical way, saying that Israel acknowledges Palestinian rights to water in the West Bank. These rights will be negotiated and identified in the permanent status agreement. I view this as a major achievement and indeed a real breakthrough [previous word in English] in the negotiations because water is one of the most serious issues. This is the basic principle on which we agreed, but some details relevant to the transitional period remain to be discussed. The most important among these is the additional water the Palestinians need, whether for drinking or for agriculture and other purposes. Other issues are cooperation in the area of water supervision, increasing water sources, and others. So, the main obstacle that hindered negotiations over practical issues has been removed. We had refused to negotiate over practical issues before establishing the principle that the Palestinians had inalienable water rights. It was also established that these rights cover all water sources, whether above or under ground.

['Awn] But putting problems aside, Abu-'Ala', is like moving in a mine field. Do you not think that your people are paying a price for incomplete agreements?

[Quray'] This is not an incomplete agreement. I view it as a complete, integrated agreement. Wresting a recognition of our water rights is an extremely important matter, a basic principled issue. Moreover, we are now using only 120 million cubic meters of water. We want our people to receive double this quantity during the transitional period, until we are able to regain all our water. We are only six months away from the permanent status negotiations. These negotiations, which seek to settle the Palestine question from all aspects, will start on 4 May 1996.

['Awn] Abu-'Ala', you said that the Israeli recognition will be used as a basis for the permanent status negotiations. In Oslo, the Israelis made many obligations which they failed to translate. What has changed now?

[Quray'] I do not want to say that they were not translated. What was agreed upon in Oslo was based on the philosophy of gradual steps and phases. The first phase, Gaza-Jericho, was completed, but the implementation of the second part of the agreement was delayed, and we are now negotiating over this. I view an agreement on the implementation of this second part as one of the most important, serious, and difficult steps because it is the one that will finalize the Oslo agreement — apart from the issues that will be discussed in the permanent status negotiations — and because it is the next to last step toward settling all aspects of the Palestine question. It is therefore going to be an important agreement. Regrettably, the agreement is one year late, but we now hope to be able to reach it and immediately start its implementation.

['Awn] Abu-'Ala', thanks for these clarifications.

[Quray'] Thank you very much.

Beilin Comments on Meeting 'Arafat, 'Cooperation'

TA2408160095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Economics and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin says Yasir 'Arafat believes that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad will work with the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the future. Beilin spoke to Amy Rhodes after meeting with 'Arafat in Gaza today:

[Begin recording] [Beilin] Chairman 'Arafat said to me that all these rumors that people who were arrested on Friday [18 August] in Gaza were promised to be released in the course of one month are wrong — there is nothing like that — and that he will arrest them as long as it is needed. There is no promise like that.

Speaking about Yahya 'Ayyash, what Mr. 'Arafat said is that despite what was said by the Israelis that the so-called Engineer is in Gaza, he has no information about this. Nevertheless, he asked his people to search for him and to try to find him.

[Rhodes] What did the PLO chairman tell you regarding the closure imposed on Jericho?

[Beilin] He did not refer to it. Of course, I explained to him the difficulties that we are facing, the problem of ongoing terrorism which is the main shadow over the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. He, of course, is aware of it, and he said that he hopes that the motivation

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for further terrorism will decrease and that he believes that most of the Hamas people and even the Islamic Jihad will eventually cooperate with the Palestinian leadership.

[Rhodes] And regarding cooperation between Israel and the PA in the search for these terrorists?

[Beilin] We did not raise anything about such cooperation. We did speak about other kinds of cooperation, and especially in the planning area. Here we agreed upon having joint seminars and discussions among experts in planning on both sides. [end recording]

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Algeria

FIS Said in 'Consultations' With Other Groups

MM2508104895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Salah Jamil in London and agencies in Algeria: "Rabah Kebir Calls for Algerian Opposition's Participation in FIS' Forthcoming Contacts With Government"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has announced that it is currently holding consultations with the other opposition organizations inside Algeria to formulate a common strategy to oppose the presidential elections, with the first ballot scheduled for 16 November 1995, and strongly denied the existence of contacts between the government and the FIS. It also insisted on the necessity for the participation of the "effective opposition" in any forthcoming contacts between the two parties as the guarantee of their success.

This came in a statement made yesterday to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by Shaykh Rabah Kebir, chairman of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, who lives in Germany. He reiterated the FIS' rejection of the proposed presidential elections because it considers "that suitable political or security conditions have not been provided at all, and consequently we consider it a ploy by the authorities to remain in power despite their policy's bankruptcy and the fact that it has ruined Algeria." The FIS leader added that the FIS "is having internal consultations with the political opposition in order to adopt appropriate political measures to counteract this dangerous ploy which could delay the settlement further." Regarding the conflicting reports on the fates of FIS leader Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj and the place of their detention, Kebir said: "They are missing and we have no knowledge of their whereabouts or circumstances." He also denied the resumption of contacts between the FIS and the government and said that "reports of a resumption of contacts between the FIS and the government are totally unfounded, and we consider that if they take place in the future, the active opposition must participate in them to guarantee their success." [passage omitted]

Egypt

President Mubarak Holds News Conference

NC2408133095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1143 GMT 24 Aug 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents on 24 August; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President, His Majesty King Husayn's statements yesterday suggested that a military confrontation between Jordan and Iraq is now possible as a result of Jordan granting political asylum to some members of the ruling regime in Iraq. Are things serious enough to warrant military concentrations?

[Mubarak] I have heard of no concentrations. I heard King Husayn's speech yesterday but I do not think there will be any military operations between Iraq and Jordan; this is nonsense. After the defection of Husayn Kamil, President Saddam congratulated King Husayn on the anniversary of his accession to the throne. King Husayn replied. I do not think Iraq is in a position to ponder a military operation against anyone.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] U.S. forces moving to the Gulf?

[Mubarak] I do not know what the circumstances are. Perhaps these are preventive measures [previous two words in English]. But I do not think a war can break out now or that Iraq can engage in military operations against Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, especially after its past experience, or even against Jordan, especially as the distance is very long in terms of moving troops along it; it is not that simple. Iraq is never in a military position that would allow it to fight.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, does Your Excellency expect the fall of the Iraqi regime in light of the recent developments? And how do you explain Iraq's sudden change in its dealing with the United Nations?

[Mubarak] [words indistinct] We have no particular information. The fall or not of the regime is an issue that must be left to the people, who are the concerned party. We cannot say, from outside Iraq, that we will overthrow the regime or not. This has to do with the will of the people. If the people do not want their president, he should leave, or else undesirable things will happen. As regards Husayn Kamil's defection, I believe he was part of the regime. He fled. So far there is a riddle I do not understand. Husayn Kamil had with him his brother, the head of the Republican Guards, and Saddam Husayn's daughters. So I do not understand

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really. The situation is not so clear that you might expect this or that. But the defection of Husayn Kamil does not mean the fall of the regime. These are uncertain things, speculation.

[Correspondent] What about the sudden change in Iraq's dealing with the United Nations?

[Mubarak] These are tactics. It was said that Husayn Kamil hid information; Tariq 'Aziz then said Iraq was willing to provide all the information Husayn Kamil had concealed. This is a kind of political game between them.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you said in your meeting with university students that the lifting of the weapons embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina would lead to the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping forces there. Does this mean Egypt will withdraw its troops operating within the UN peacekeeping force?

[Mubarak] We are operating as part of the United Nations. If the embargo is removed, the influx of weapons will start. It is clear that the peacekeeping forces are not prepared for fighting and war; they will be crushed in the middle. When the United Nations decides to withdraw its forces, no country will leave its troops there. Our forces are operating under the umbrella of the United Nations. I am, of course, not prepared to leave our sons there to be crushed. We did not send them to fight, but to help keep peace. They are not there to fight or regain territory. But the removal of the embargo is now too late. The influx of weapons means more fighting. If a large amount of weapons from Islamic and other countries goes to Bosnia, we will see a horrible war there. If the embargo is lifted, the Serbs will not wait. They have [weapon] factories and other capabilities, and they will not wait for weapons to reach [the Bosnian Government]. So the problem must be solved politically. The military solution is virtually fatal.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, do you expect an agreement to be reached in the next few days between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and will you attend the signing ceremony of such an agreement if it takes place in the White House?

[Mubarak] This is a premature issue for discussion. The Palestinians were supposed to sign the first part of the agreement here the day the bus explosion took place in which six or so people were killed and around 100 were injured. The signing was postponed as a result. I think negotiations are going to resume, because they were supposed to sign on 7 September, but I think they will not have enough time to meet the deadline. The signing might have to take place during the second half of September, I have heard. It is premature to discuss whether I am going to attend or not. We do not know what the situation will be.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, are you optimistic regarding the Syrian-Israeli efforts?

[Mubarak] Syria wants peace and I believe Israel also wants peace with its neighbors. Proof of this is the events that are taking place now, which Israel has tolerated, and their desire to work with the Palestinians. So long as the two parties want peace, it is a matter of time before some of the problems are resolved, but peace is coming for sure.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I have a question outside of politics. Regarding the noises that were heard yesterday in Heliopolis, were you in the house when artillery was fired at an airplane?

[Mubarak] [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] The people on the street were quite disturbed.

[Mubarak] [words indistinct]. I had just arrived from Alexandria. [words indistinct] people who claim they were sure of what happened, who saw things, people who know what happened. There was absolutely nothing. It was a very normal event and there were no problems.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you have many times rejected considering Sudan a terrorist state. Egypt has refused to take any stance in the United Nations, which accuses Sudan of state sponsored terrorism. Does the Sudanese regime now have some policy as a result of the Egyptian stance towards it ...

[Mubarak] Have some what?

[Correspondent] Have some kind of reaction or policy, believing that the Egyptian stance supports Sudan? And will this make it change its policy toward exporting terrorism to neighboring countries?

[Mubarak] No. The fact that Sudan is a terrorist state does not need a resolution. Everyone knows what Sudan is all about. All the countries neighboring Sudan—Ethiopia, Uganda, Eritrea, Egypt—know this. You heard the statements of the five men who were recently arrested. They spoke about [training] camps in Sudan, yet Sudan claims not to have any camps. They are farms, and we know very well what they are up to and where they are. Everything is clear. We do not want to get involved in this matter because we would be punishing the people themselves. Those who will be harmed in the final analysis are the people of Sudan. If we get involved in a draft resolution labeling Sudan a terrorist

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state, the Sudanese leaders will tell their people: See. You cannot survive because Egypt did this, that, or the other. Egypt is the one who has imposed the siege on us. A siege is already imposed on them, and terrorism is flourishing there, and there isn't a single Sudanese who does not know this. The whole matter does not merit a decision from our side.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, have you spoken with President al-Qadhdhafi about the Egyptian workers in Libya?

[Mubarak] This matter was discussed. I have said perhaps there have been circumstances surrounding some groups working there, but not the Egyptian workers. I do not wish to enter into the details of this matter; however, Egyptian workers in Libya are being treated well. Perhaps what happened was confined to a certain area or a result of some unusual circumstances.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what do you expect from the Amman [economic] summit, and will the heads of state attend this conference? Is this conference taking place at an appropriate time?

[Mubarak] I have been invited to attend the conference, but I see that no heads of state will be attending. It will convene on the level of foreign ministers. I believe the person who will open the conference is the crown prince of Jordan. I think the Russian and U.S. foreign ministers will deliver speeches. I believe all the people who will be delivering speeches or discussing plans are foreign ministers of countries outside the region. I really do not know where the countries of the region are? This is an economic conference on the Middle East, but when I look through the agenda, I do not see anyone from the region set to speak. Egypt will not be delivering a speech, Syria will not attend, and Jordan will not speak. So far, the situation has not crystallized.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what is the objective of the foreign minister's visit to Ethiopia?

[Mubarak] Our relations with Ethiopia are very good. There are no problems. You know that our relations with Ethiopia go back a long way. I sent the foreign minister to Ethiopia with a message to the Ethiopian president. There are some reports every now and then claiming souring relations between Egypt and Ethiopia. Ethiopia itself is not a party to what happened in Addis Ababa. Those who carried out the operation came from Mr. al-Turabi's side. They came to Ethiopia and carried out their operation. Borders can be infiltrated easily, this is not a problem.

[Correspondent] Egypt has constantly been trying to bridge the Arab gap ever since the Gulf crisis. There have been some successful attempts in this regard. How will the current crisis between Jordan and Iraq, the Jordanian monarch's statements, his change of stance, and his demand that the siege on Iraq be continued affect these efforts?

[Mubarak] I have never attempted to bridge the gap between Jordan and Iraq because they were friends. However, the king's speech might have broader political significance, which I am not aware of. I heard King Husayn's speech and I think it was a brave speech. However, I still do not know its objective. I need to meet with King Husayn to find out.

[Correspondent] Will you meet him soon?

[Mubarak] If circumstances allow such a meeting.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, regional cooperation is a two-way street. So far, the Arab countries have been giving things, while Israel has not even conceded to discussing the topic of nuclear tests or the Israeli nuclear program. We heard that the Dimona reactor recently leaked some radiation which affected the Jordanians. This is a situation that could affect all neighboring countries. Is there any coordination among the neighboring countries to try to find a solution to this problem.

[Mubarak] The nuclear topic has been under discussion ever since the Camp David negotiations. It was then raised again when the Camp David agreement was renewed. The agreement was finalized and approved, but this does not mean that this subject is closed. We still uphold the principle that the region should be free of weapons of mass-destruction. The Israeli excuse is that we are still not in a state of peace. However, after we reach peace, we need to sit down together and discuss this issue. Our region must be free of all weapons of mass-destruction. Otherwise, there will be a nuclear arms race in the region. If Israel adheres to its program, other countries will start to build their own nuclear reactors. Iraq, for example, had a nuclear weapons program. We want to avert this kind of feverish race when we accomplish peace agreements and sit round a table calmly and talk about what the current situation is and what it should be.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. President.

Foreign Minister Musa To Visit Jordan 26 Aug

NC2508102395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will pay a working visit to Jordan tomorrow. The visit will last several hours.

Musa stated that he will deliver a message to King Husayn from President Husni Mubarak concerning the

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Middle East peace process, the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and Egypt's positions on developments in the Arab world. He added that he will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and senior officials on the situation in the Arab world, the peace march on the various tracks, and ways to boost Egyptian-Jordanian relations.

The foreign minister will begin a 10-day tour that will take him to Albania, Cameroon, South Africa, and Ethiopia on 27 August. [passage omitted]

MENA Views Mubarak German Radio Interview

NC2508110795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1020 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cologne, 25 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has restated that the Bosnian problem can only be solved through negotiations and diplomacy.

The president pinned full responsibility for this problem on the European states, Russia, and the United States. He remarked that these states should have paid attention to the problem before it got worse, reaching the serious level it has reached. This came in an interview the president gave to the Arabic section of German radio, which broadcast excerpts of it today. The full interview will be broadcast in Egypt and Germany on Monday [28 August].

The president said in the interview that the Islamic world undertakes its duty to support any peaceful initiative to avert further bloodshed in Bosnia. Mubarak appealed to the world to find a solution to the problem of extremism and terrorism, warning that the problem will develop into a threat to the states that harbor terrorists. Speaking about the attempt on his life in Addis Ababa, Mubarak reiterated his accusations against the Afghanistan returnees. He blamed particular states that harbor terrorists, pointing out that these groups get financial support from donations. He added that these groups are living in Europe and that their leaders are hiding behind political asylum.

Touching on the Middle East peace process, President Mubarak said there is no going back where peace is concerned. He noted that Egypt was a pioneer along the road to peace and that others followed suit after they realized the value and importance of peace.

Commenting on the Egyptian POW's who were killed in Israel, President Mubarak stated that the issue is being discussed with the Israeli authorities. This will not affect our relations with Israel, he remarked.

Speaking about the economic and domestic situation in Egypt, President Mubarak said Egypt will continue with economic reform. He pointed out that this needs foreign assistance from the United States and Europe, but without imposing preconditions on Egypt, he stressed.

The president discussed the People's Assembly elections slated for later this year, reiterating that the government is careful to guarantee the elections are clean and to avoid interference in them. He remarked that every citizen is entitled to run in the elections, except those found guilty of terrorist crimes.

Contradiction in U.S. Gulf, Bosnia Policy Noted

NC2408211295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2030 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM expresses regret over the obvious contradiction on all levels in U.S. policy toward events in the Gulf and Bosnia. In its 25 August issue, the newspaper notes that within a matter of a few days the United States mobilized 42,000 soldiers, moved 33 warships, hundreds of tanks, and two aircraft carriers and placed the U.S. forces on high alert prior to sending them to the Gulf. The United States also held joint military exercises with Jordan and Kuwait. The United States also launched an intensive political campaign, held consultations and contacts in the region, and put immense pressure on Jordan to persuade it to sever economic ties with Iraq—all this because it feels concerned, not even disturbed, by Iraqi moves inside Iraqi territory.

AL-AHRAM adds that in contrast to this feverish activity and unusual attention, the U.S. stand on the events in Bosnia is weak, timid, and meaningless. Since the beginning of the Bosnian crisis the United States has not played any practical role to resolve or calm the situation there.

AL-AHRAM explains that all Washington's pretexts about Iraqi President Saddam Husayn threatening his neighbors are unjustified. This is because the Serbs constitute a serious threat, not only to the Muslims of Bosnia but also to the whole Balkan region.

NADP Members Visit Iraq To Discuss Relations

NC2508083095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0800 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (MENA)—Sayyid Sha'ban, heading a delegation representing the opposition Nasirite Arab Democratic Party [NADP], which is visiting Iraq, has stated the party's eagerness to restore normalcy to inter-Arab relations. He stressed Egypt's role in restoring solidarity and healing the schism.

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Sha'ban told a MENA correspondent in Baghdad today that the NADP supports every effort to restore Arab solidarity. He pointed out that the talks the NADP delegation held in the past two days with Iraqi officials focused on the need to restore Arab solidarity and correct its course. The Iraqi side showed a positive interest in restoring solidarity and normalcy to inter-Arab relations, Sha'ban said.

Sha'ban, who is a member of the NADP political bureau, added that his talks with the Iraqi officials touched on the problems encountered by Egyptian workers in Iraq concerning their residence permits, as well as on the issue of the Egyptian prisoners in Iraq in light of the pardon the Iraqi authorities issued recently. He remarked that the Iraqi side showed understanding and was positive concerning measures to solve these problems.

Sha'ban concluded that his visit to Iraq is in response to an invitation the NADP received from the Iraqi Ba'th Party's foreign relations bureau. He said it was agreed during the talks held yesterday to keep channels of communications open between the two parties.

Commentary: Coexistence in Territories 'Impossible'

NC2508062995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Peace Cannot Be Established on the Basis of the Fait Accompli the Israeli Occupation Has Imposed on the Palestinian Territories"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The suicide operation carried out in Jerusalem two days ago and all the suicide operations carried out since the PLO and Israel signed the Oslo agreement raise an important and essential question concerning the peace process between the two sides: Can peace be established between the two sides on the basis of the fait accompli the Israeli occupation has imposed on the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied territories in general?

Before we analyze this point we must emphasize that this suicide operation is unjustifiable. It merits denunciation and open condemnation for obvious reasons. The first such reason is that it targeted civilians. The second reason is that it subjected Palestinian interests to definite and clear damage. The third and most important reason is that it sought to sabotage the peace process, a process that is vital to the entire Palestinian people as well as to the Arab peoples and states and the Middle East in general. The planners of that operation, of previous operations, and those that might follow have not come up with an alternative to the peaceful solution. It is an indisputable fact that traded acts of violence and terrorism can never resolve the issue.

But the Israeli side bears almost full responsibility for such regrettable bloody incidents between the Palestinians and the Israelis. This takes us to the essence of the issue we will discuss here, pointing out that it is comforting and reassuring that the Israeli and Palestinian sides have reiterated their determination to keep up the peace process, since, as we said, there is no alternative to peace. Only peace will end the violence and conflict that has persisted for three decades.

As for being very hard, if not impossible, to establish peace between the Palestinians and Israelis on the basis of the fait accompli the occupation has imposed on the Palestinian territories, the first thing we would like to note is that the suicide operation that was carried out two days ago occurred in a settlers quarter of East Jerusalem. As all the signs indicate, Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories under occupation is the major obstacle hindering an acceptable solution and a firm and secure peace between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

In addition to the settlement problem, there are of course very complicated major issues, such as the problem of the future of East Jerusalem and the issues of water, security, and others. But an objective analysis of the entire situation reveals that insistence on making changes, particularly demographic, in the occupied Palestinian territories and in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in particular, has been the stumbling block hindering negotiations to complete the Palestinian self-rule all that time. The major obstacle is the security of settlements and settlers. The issue of the city of Hebron provides the best example. In essence, the issue is merely one concerning 400 settlers living in the city's center. We do not think the religious aspect of the issue is impossible to resolve if acceptable political solutions are reached. All we need do is refer to the implications of the conflict, the tension, and the ongoing violence and counterviolence between the settlers, who are extremist fanatics, and the Palestinians in the past few weeks. It is obvious from this conflict that the two sides cannot coexist, no matter what security precautions Israel or the Palestinian Authority might take.

Morocco

Saudi Daily: New Government May Be Set Up Soon

LD2308133095 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Aug. 23 (MAP) — A new government might be set up in the coming months in Morocco, after King Hassan II announced this August

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20 the organization of two referendums on constitutional amendments, according to the Saudi daily 'ACHARQ AL-AWSAT".

Quoting sources close to Moroccan political parties, the daily said there had been contacts between opposition parties' leaders and one of the advisers to King Hassan II before the speech of August 20.

According to the daily which said the sources did not disclose the contents of the contacts, the talks might have dealt with constitutional amendments and future prospects.

In the speech he delivered August 20 on the occasion of the revolution of the king and the people anniversary, King Hassan II announced the organization of two referendums. The first, to take place on September 15, will propose that the date of the presentation and adoption of the finance bill be changed and that the bill be discussed and adopted by the parliament during the spring session rather than the fall session.

The second referendum, slated for next year at a date to be set later on, will be related to the setting up of a bicameral system in Morocco.

Sudan

Radio: Opposition Divided Over Asmara Conference

EA2408204495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Cairo indicate that the so-called opposition is beginning to distance itself from the resolutions adopted at the Asara conference [convened on 23 June 1995] after the Egyptian regime and some of the leaders of the defunct [Sudanese] parties rejected the resolutions. The so-called opposition has been holding a symposium in Cairo for the past two days in this context to reassess the resolutions of the Asmara conference. A number of speakers said the so-called opposition had been mistaken in attending the conference.

A leader of the defunct Federal Democratic Party [EAU records show him to be member of National Democratic Party], Ali Abu-Sinn, said the Garang movement [Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement] had imposed its views and ideas on all the participants and had treated representatives of other forces with great condescension.

In his assessment of the Asmara conference, Abu-Sinn said the conference was so disorganized that there was not even a drafting committee. The conferees also left the conference venue without signing anything, he added. The result, he said, was that the conferees themselves did not know what had actually been decided. The opposition had bitterly disagreed over what the conference approved. The Garang movement had imposed its views, which were not evaluated, he said. The movement had presented mistaken and misguided notions, he said.

A member of the defunct Ummah Party, Al-Tijani Al-Sisi [former governor of Darfur region] said the Asmara conference had not dealt with facts and that many conferees had no faith in the resolutions of the Asmara conference, despite attending it.

Minister Explains Release of Political Detainees

EA2408194295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of state in the president's office, Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, has said that the revolution is eager to guarantee freedoms, broaden the base of participation, and enable citizens to observe their social and political obligations without discrimination. His excellency said the decision to release all political detainees taken by the National Security Council was part and parcel of the philosophy and methodology of dealing with events. In a statement today, the minister added that Sudan was giving all its sons the opportunity to participate in construction and [word indistinct] in the context of its cultural course. Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim said the decision to release the political detainees was also in line with the constitutional, security and political developments now taking place in the country. He said the attempts to intervene in the country and conspire against it made it essential for all citizens to adhere to the revolution's plans and programs.

The National Security Council yesterday [23 August] directed security officials to take necessary steps to execute the order within 72 hours.

Western Sahara

Polisario: Referendum in Dec or 'Armed Battle'

BR2408142895 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 24 Aug 95 p 6

[Report by Alfonso Armada: "Polisario Shows Its Firepower"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We are getting out our tanks and guns." This summing up by a participant of the ninth Congress of the Popular Liberation Front of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (the Polisario Front or FP) leaves little chance for the eternally postponed referendum on self-determination of the former Spanish Sahara ever

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seeing the light of day. Nevertheless, the FP was very careful — during the three days of sessions behind closed doors and under an exacting summer sun 70 kilometers from Tinduf in the most arid corner of the Algerian desert — to leave the hot potato of peace in the hands of the United Nations.

Although journalists were kept well away behind a cordon sanitaire some 60 kilometers from the 12th October camp where the 1,811 Saharan delegates (900 of whom are military officers) voted the final resolutions on Tuesday [22 August], the virulence of the debate nevertheless flew over the desert sands that had been heated to 50 degrees: "The FP will certainly not go back to war if the UN Security Council decides to rigorously defend and implement the peace plan."

However, there is little hope in the FP that something that has still yet to occur will finally be put into practice. Abidin Kaid Salah, who is well aware of the plans afoot in the Saharan movements' leadership, stressed that the end-of-year deadline set by Congress was an ultimatum for the United Nations to finally "get to work." For the time being, the deadline is set for December. This leaves little time for action when you realize that a referendum has already been on the cards since the first quarter of 1992. Muhamed Abdelaziz, president of the Democratic Saharan Arab Republic, warned: "Our people have been very patient, but after 20 years in exile, forced to live in refugee camps, their patience is on the point of running out." The president, who attended each session wearing his military uniform, revealed the day before the final resolutions were adopted that everyone was "unanimous" in their lack of confidence: "The FP doubts that the United Nations will be able to guarantee the application of the peace plan" and, as a result, "the FP is determined to return to its policy of resistance if the peace plan fails. The overriding feeling is that by the end of the year we will either have a referendum or we will return to armed battle."

'Minimum Conditions'

The report written by Frank Rudy, former deputy director of UN Census Control for the Western Sahara, which criticized the United Nations' tolerance with respect to Morocco's repeated obstruction of the preparations for the referendum, has so far not resulted in any visible change. The electoral lists are being drawn up at a snail's pace. As a result, the FP has presented the United Nations Organization with three "minimum conditions" to avoid them from resorting to the language of war again: First, it must halt the invasion of Moroccan colonists (they claim that 150,000 have settled there to date) and it must control the border between Morocco and the Western Sahara. Second, Saharan citizens must be protected in the occupied territories. Third, the blockade on the occupied zones must be lifted (virtually the whole of Western Sahara, enclosed by six walls hundreds of kilometers long) and observers and journalists must be allowed in.

The day before the ninth FP Congress opened in the 12th October camp and some 2,500 delegates and guests almost suffocated from heat and humidity which pushed the thermometers towards breaking point, we were presented with the first promotion of 1,200 officers and NCO's [noncommissioned officers] trained in the FP's military academies after the signing of the ceasefire agreement. At the same time, all of the officers in the Republic's Army who were cooperating with the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara [MINURSO] returned to their bases. The military machinery been set in motion even though some Saharan leaders admit in private that it had never really been idle. Some of the aid workers helping the refugees in Tinduf whose sandy and rocky suburbs are home to 25 camps housing 250,000 Saharans, can still remember the parading of combat tanks and missiles by the FP two years ago when it was celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The most lively debates concerned the aim of electing a general secretary (which implies the post of president), and according to all the indications Abdelaziz will be confirmed in this role. A Polisario delegate revealed outside the Congress that it had agreed that the FP's executive committee would be reduced from 52 to 33 members and that it would henceforth act as "a kind of chiefs of staff, even though it would retain a balance between military and civilian members." He claimed that the Congress had "granted full powers to the general secretary." The virulent criticism that arose in the debates was concentrated on three areas: Morocco, the United Nations, and the outgoing bureau. Some voices were raised condemning the fact that a ceasefire agreement had been concluded with Morocco in 1991 before all the aspects of the peace plan were known and "which enabled Rabat to twist them around to its own benefit." According to the FP representative in Spain, Hash Ahmed, the Polisario believed that one of the few things on the international scene that inspired any confidence was the attitude of the United States "which is not in favor of the Saharans but which is nevertheless preventing the United Nations from implementing a dirty solution." Ahmed, together with most of the people who withstood the August heat at the ninth Congress, is convinced that the deadlines will not be respected: "That is why we had to hold this Congress in August. The perspectives for dialogue do not look good at all, and neither do the chances of there being a referendum." In September, the UN Secretary General will have

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to submit his report on the situation in the Sahara, and in October the UN Security Council will have to make a decision. Ahmed warned: "The United Nations must reinforce MINURSO to speed up the peace plan. However, it is hard for the organization to find the necessary funding to do this. If no referendum is called and the United Nations actually reduces its MINURSO personnel then we will call for the final contingents to withdraw and we will let our weapons talk."

Polisario Appeals to Spain Over Threat to Peace

LD2408165995 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony, is again threatened with an imminent return to the days of war and fighting. The Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] is ready to return to arms if the date of next March — the latest one set by the United Nations to hold the eternally postponed self-determination referendum — is not respected. The Sahraoui people's time and its patience with a peace plan that is not being fulfilled is running out. This situation was reflected at the Polisario Front's latest congress, which was held in the last few days in the Tindouf refugee camps in Algeria. Its conclusions were presented in Madrid this morning. Mari Jose Castejon:

[Castejon] The next few months will be the ones that will tilt the balance between peace or the return to war in Western Sahara. The Polisario Front considers that three years delay in the promised referendum, continually obstructed by Morocco and with the passivity of the United Nations, is time enough to begin to think that the return to war could be inevitable. In fact at the Polisario Front's latest congress a new, smaller, and more adaptable leadership was elected, looking to an imminent situation of war.

In spite of everything, Polisario is not giving up hope and it asks for an effort from the international community to prevent this last chance for peace from failing. According to its representative in Spain Hash Ahmed, our country has a special responsibility in this respect.

[Begin Hash Ahmed recording] We insist that Spain could use its EU presidency to at least draw attention to the need for this peace plan not to fail and to halt a possible military escalation in the region. It has the appropriate instruments; we do not know whether it has the courage to do so yet. That is the question. [end recording]

[Castejon] Ahmed acknowledged the moral blow for the Sahraouis by the latest fishing negotiations between the EU and Morocco, in which no one, starting with Spain, has taken into account that they are negotiating over Western Saharan territorial waters. The Polisario Front says that it is an insult for our country's interests in that region not to contemplate, even as a hypothesis, the independence of its former colony.

Polisario Head Seeks UN Guarantees for Elections

LD2408192095 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mohamed Abdelaziz has been reelected as leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] at the conclusion of its ninth congress. [passage omitted]

Our special correspondent, Donaig Ledu, met Mohamed Abdelaziz near Tindouf, Algeria, where the congress was being held, and asked him if the Polisario Front was laying down conditions for its continued participation in the peace process.

[Begin Abdelaziz in Arabic, fading into French translation] It is not that we are laying down conditions but we say that, while we set great store by the settlement plan, we must insist on the original, initial plan that was accepted by both sides and endorsed by the international community. We say that the voters must be Saharans and that, from the outset, the United Nations must give sufficient guarantees that, at the level of the identification commission, only Saharans will appear on the lists and be allowed to cast their votes and make their choices. I think our patience should be the same as that of the international community — or at least comparable. In any case, what I would say is that by the end of this year or the beginning of the next, we will have a clearer picture, things will have settled down, and we will know more. [end recording]

Polisario Front Reelects President, Administration

LD2408214395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro's [Polisario] ninth conference has reelected President Mohamed Abdelaziz Ezzedine to the post of Polisario secretary general. The Polisario conference elected a new administration with 33 members and proposed an amendment to the Constitution so as to enable the establishment of a Saharan national council.

The conference, whose proceedings began last Saturday [19 August], was attended by an Algerian delegation

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that included three ministers. The head of the delegation reiterated Algeria's adherence to international legitimacy and the UN peace plan for the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara.

Saharan-Sahel Ministers Issue Joint Communique

LD2408220495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Saharan-Sahel round culminated in issuing a joint communique comprising many resolutions related to the security aspect and to bolstering economic cooperation and trade exchanges between the countries of the region. The statement also entrusted Algeria with the presentation of a document about the constituent framework of the next forum. Here is correspondent with Dalila Bouhana:

[Bouhana] The final statement from the proceedings of the Second Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Saharan-Sahel Countries reiterated the conviction of these countries that peace and security in the region are essential for their growth and development. Within this framework, the ministers recorded their satisfaction with the development of the situation in the north of Mali and the efforts made to implement the Bamako Accord. They also lauded the peace agreement signed in April 1995 between the Niger Government and the Coordination of Armed Resistance. [passage omitted]

The ministers expressed their deep concern over the continuation of the embargo imposed on the Libyan Arab people because of its negative effects on the region. They stressed the need for coordinated action to be taken against the spread of extremism and the smuggling of weapons and drugs.

On the economic situation in the region, the ministers noted the negative effects of indebtedness and currency devaluation imposed by economic restructuring programs. The ministers therefore also noted the need to strengthen economic relations between the countries of the region by opening up new prospects for regional cooperation.

Concerning the epidemics of desertification and the locust invasion, it was agreed to hold two meetings for the experts to examine the means for strengthening the efforts to confront these two epidemics and cooperating in the spheres of health, transport, and communications.

Finally, it was agreed to establish a mechanism to ensure the actual implementation of the decisions and to examine the applications submitted by some countries to join the gathering. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Hasan: Uranium Production Speeded Kuwait Invasion

LD2508111395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 25 Aug (KUNA) — General Husayn Kamil Hasan, former Iraqi minister of industry, said today that he possesses information about the Kuwaiti prisoners of war detained by Iraq since its aggression against Kuwait in August 1990.

In an interview with the London based AL-HAYAH, distributed here, General Husayn Kamil, who recently defected to Jordan, added: "Indeed there were Kuwaiti POW's. However, my brief did not include this field but I have information that I will disclose in due course."

The former Iraqi official said he is considering a visit to Saudi Arabia and to Kuwait for various reasons as they are neighbors to Iraq and are two Arab countries concerned with the interest of Iraq and with his own position. "We are contemplating paying a visit to Saudi Arabia and to Kuwait to explain our position and to seek their help to get rid of this Iraqi regime."

Husayn Kamil also said that "Iraq was planning to invade both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia" before his defection to Jordan.

He said that Iraq managed to produce uranium before its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 "which prompted it to hasten the invasion of Kuwait believing that the world would not confront it... consequently Iraq paid a heavy price and along with it were Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Arab and the international community."

Concerning his contacts with foreign countries after his defection with his brother and their wives, the two daughters of Saddam, to Jordan, General Husayn Kamil said: "There has been no meeting with American officials." However, he explained that "we are trying to hold contacts with international circles including the Americans due to their special position being the superpower and due to America's relations with the Arab region [words garbled]."

He acknowledged the existence of opposition in Iraq, saying "we will fully cooperate with all its factions."

Husayn Kamil refused to cooperate with Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother, saying that "the reason is Barzan's injustice, oppression and offenses against many Iraqi citizens as he has executed some, imprisoned some, and deprived others of their property. He is no different from the regime which I left and which I am working against."

In another development Husayn Kamil, in an interview with the daily AL-QABAS published here today, stressed his respect for Kuwait's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity." He described the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as "a grave mistake" which brought nothing but problems and pains to the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples.

Regarding the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraqi prisons the former Iraqi official explained that he is no longer in direct contact with that file. He accused Saddam Husayn, his brother Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan, and his cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid of being directly responsible for the crimes committed in Kuwait during the invasion.

Kamil said: "I retired from the Kuwaiti file only a few days after the invasion as both Sab'awi and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid decided to control the fate of the Kuwaiti people. Thanks to God I was not party to any detentions, interrogations, trials or executions carried out in Kuwait."

Concerning his responsibility in burning the Kuwaiti oil wells, the Iraqi minister of industry and minerals said: "Saddam issued written letters to both Sab'awi and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid in which he said literally: Burn all oil wells before your withdrawal. And indeed, they issued their orders to mine the wells and burn them while I was at the time neither in Kuwait nor had any relation to the Kuwait file."

At the end of his interview Husayn Kamil stressed: "When the dawn of freedom breaks on Iraq it will bring good to all countries of the region, and at the forefront of that will be the guaranteed respect for the state of Kuwait and its sovereignty."

More on Remarks

NC2508092095 Paris AFP in English 0857 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 25 (AFP)— Iraq had fixed August 31 as the date to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the former Iraqi industry minister who defected, told a Kuwaiti paper Friday [25 August].

"The attack was due to take place on August 31, according to a plan fixed last month by (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," he told the daily AL-QABAS.

The date was to coincide with the end of an ultimatum which Iraq had set in July for the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM) to complete its work and recommend a lifting of UN sanctions on Baghdad, he said.

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"I have eased my conscience having scuppered the plan and prevented a new catastrophe," he told the paper.

Hasan defected with his brother, Saddam Kamil Hasan, and their wives, both Saddam's daughters, on August 8 and they have been granted asylum in Jordan.

Iraq revoked its ultimatum to UNSCOM after the defection of Hasan, considered the architect of its secret weapons programmes.

Hasan denied reports that he had been involved in the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, saying "I was not involved in the arrests and executions in Kuwait, I was not in Kuwait."

He blamed Saddam directly for the repression which followed the Iraqi invasion along with General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the Iraqi leader's cousin who was appointed governor of Kuwait at the time, and Sab'awi Ibrahim who heads up the general intelligence section of the Iraqi secret services.

They were also responsible for torching Kuwaiti oil wells at the time, he added.

He also told the London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAH that he was hoping to travel to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to ask for aid from the two countries to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

His defection has been cautiously welcomed by Kuwaiti leaders, although they condemned his role in the seven-month occupation of the emirate.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah even branded him a "war criminal" and "the main architect of the occupation."

Late Thursday Iraqi television broadcast tapes in which Hasan purportedly urged Saddam to invade both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in a meeting in October when Iraq had massed troops on the border with the emirate.

Meanwhile, Hasan told AL-HAYAH that Iraq held Kuwaiti prisoners after the Gulf War but did not specify whether they were still being detained. "Effectively there were prisoners ... [ellipsis as received] I will reveal my information at the appropriate time," he said.

He added that he had not been responsible for the prisoners as part of his duties in the Iraqi administration.

Kuwait is waiting to hear news of the 605 prisoners it accuses Iraq of still holding after the end of the 1991 Gulf War when a US- led coalition routed Iraqi forces from the emirate.

Baghdad admitted in September holding 73 prisoners of war, but said it had lost trace of them.

Defense Minister Discusses Defections, Maneuvers

NC2508074595 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Ahmad al-Humud al-Jabir, in Kuwait, by Shihata Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Your Excellency, how do you view events in Iraq and this family disintegration after the defection of Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law?

[Al-Jabir] The defection of the Iraqi president's sons-in-law has affected the ruling family in Baghdad. This thing will have a strong impact on them.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you believe this was behind the movement of troops toward the south of Baghdad?

[Al-Jabir] The head of the ruling regime in Baghdad is hysterical. I think he deployed most of these troops around the palace, the radio and television stations, and his hometown, Tikrit. He also wants to strike at anyone who supported Husayn Kamil.

[Abu-al-Majd] What if General Husayn Kamil requests asylum in Kuwait?

[Al-Jabir] Husayn Kamil might be an identical copy of the head of the Iraqi regime. As far as we are concerned, he is a war criminal. He was one of those who burned the oilfields in Kuwait and who destroyed Kuwait. I cannot say if Husayn Kamil or any other can rule Iraq. As for who is qualified to rule Iraq, we do not interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. We want the Iraqi people to enjoy safety and progress. But only the Iraqi people will decide who will rule them.

[Abu-al-Majd] Have you benefited from the information Husayn Kamil revealed after defecting to Jordan?

[Al-Jabir] There was certainly some kind of benefit from this information. But we need time to verify this information. According to some sources, Kamil did not give complete information. He still has more.

[Abu-al-Majd] After General Kamil's defection to Jordan and his meeting with Rolf Ekeus, the Iraqi regime provided considerable information about its nonconventional military programs. Ekeus obtained further information from General Kamil. Do you believe this is all the information he has?

[Al-Jabir] The Iraqi regime has always avoided giving all the information it has on its biological, nuclear, and chemical weapons. It claims it does not have such

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weapons. But the regime has far more information than it conveyed to Ekeus.

[Abu-al-Majd] Can the Iraqi regime launch an attack against Kuwait at this stage?

[Al-Jabir] The Iraqi regime has a big army, which can attack any of the neighbors if it is given the order. But the question is whether this army will obey the order. This is the big question. Moreover, the neighbors have made the necessary preparations to check any attack, particularly since [words indistinct] have revealed some recent attempts. This has made us take the necessary precautions against that regime and the pledges it makes. What happened in October last year proves that. We are careful to protect our country. We are a peaceful state. We do not want to attack or threaten anyone. All we want is stability for the entire region. But if someone attacks us, we must deter him and defend our homeland and territory.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do we understand that Kuwait has made the necessary preparations to defend its security and stability?

[Al-Jabir] With the help of God, and with the assistance of our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, Syria, and our friends, we will defend Kuwait. We have made the necessary preparations to defend Kuwait.

[Abu-al-Majd] Is there a connection between the maneuvers the Kuwaiti Army conducts with friendly states and the Iraqi threats?

[Al-Jabir] These maneuvers were planned to take place at particular periods between September 1995 and July 1996. This maneuvering in particular was supposed to start in November. We asked our American friends to bring the maneuvers forward to make the necessary preparations against any attack by the Iraqi regime.

[Abu-al-Majd] Does Kuwait plan to buy new weapons to consolidate its safety?

[Al-Jabir] Kuwait of course has a program to rebuild its armed forces. This involves exercises as well as the purchase of weapons and modern equipment. Yes there is a problem. But there are plans to buy equipment needed for the Kuwaiti Army.

[Abu-al-Majd] How do you view the Damascus Declaration and the role of its states in protecting Kuwait, with particular emphasis on the Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation in the security, economic, and other fields?

[Al-Jabir] The Damascus Declaration helps all the states. These are fraternal states. They [word indistinct] this declaration by providing the information they have, particularly in the military field. We always furnish our brothers with the information available to us. Equally, we benefit from the information they supply us. Our relations, particularly with big sister Egypt, are strong and solid. We are in constant contact with our brothers in Egypt.

[Abu-al-Majd] Husayn Kamil's defection has raised an important issue, namely, that of the Kuwaiti POW's being held by the Iraqi regime. Does Kuwait plan to benefit from this man in connection with the POW's, particularly since he was very close to the Iraqi regime and certainly knows much about the detainees?

[Al-Jabir] We constantly try to release our POW's. Our joy in liberating our country will not be complete until our brothers are released. We make every effort with all the states helping us in that connection. We seek information from anyone who might have information. Kamil is among those whose information we seek through other states or individuals.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you.

Exiled Iraqi Royal Wants Monarchy Restored

LD2408145095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0949 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, 24 Aug — Al-Sharif Ali Bin al-Husayn, who lays claim to the throne of Iraq, called for the restoration of the constitutional monarchy to his country as an alternative for the current deterioration of situation and following the "atmosphere of confusion and conspiracy inside the regime of Saddam Husayn, especially after the defection of Husayn Kamil to Jordan."

However, he stressed that Husayn Kamil was not an alternative for Saddam, because he was part of the present regime, pointing out that the Iraqi people "reject exchanging an old Saddam for a new one in the person of Husayn Kamil."

He affirmed that [word indistinct] there was no alternative but the demise of this regime, "because instability will continue as long as the real criminal is in power."

In an exclusive interview with the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA here today, al-Sharif said that the restoration of the royalty to Iraq would be "the umbrella which will gather all factions and will be a symbol."

However, al-Sharif, who has been in exile for 37 years since the toppling of the monarchy in Iraq, made clear that it was up to the Iraqi people, affirming his belief holding a free referendum through which the Iraqis would decide the form of regime they desired.

During the interview, which was conducted at his house in central London, al-Sharif said that Iraqis from all

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political factions were urging him to nominate himself for the leadership of the royal movement considering that he, more than anybody else, deserves the throne of Iraq, if the people agree.

Replying to a question on his relations with other Iraqi opposition groups, he said that he was seeking to rally the opposition and has called for a formula that satisfies all parties. He described his position towards the opposition as "based on mutual" respect," but he pointed out that difficult circumstances created obstacles hindering the march of a joint action. [quotation marks as received]

Concerning his contacts with Iraqis inside the country, he said that he had a base there with whom he was having constant consultations, but he refused to give details about this, underlining that there were channels through which these consultations were made. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif is of the view that the information given by Husayn Kamil was now obsolete after his flight, because Saddam Husayn would turn the security system upside down to avert any moves by his son-in-law.

Al-Sharif described the current situation in Iraq as political, social, human, and moral tragedy. To a question by KUNA, he said that the invasion of Kuwait was the biggest treason in Arab history, all the more since the aggression was against a brother. He considered what happened as a considerable setback not only to Kuwait, but also to all the Arab nations. He further said: We are still paying the price for this crime and both the Kuwaiti and the Iraqi peoples are bearing the brunt of it. [passage omitted]

Regarding his contacts with the Gulf states, al-Sharif said that he was trying to clarify the aspirations of the constitutional royal movement to the states of the region so that stability may return to Iraq, and so that Baghdad may observe international law and good neighborliness. He said that his relations were very good with all the states of the region, but that he had not make any contacts with King Husayn of Jordan. He further said: There are signs that there has been no political change in the position of King Husayn to the Iraqi regime and that his playing a host to Husayn Kamil was just Arab hospitality to an Iraqi refugee. He criticized the position of Jordan to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and also for Amman still being a center for Iraqi intelligence, and an outlet to it, as he put it.

Al-Sharif expressed hope, however that Jordan's welcome to Husayn Kamil would be an event leading to a change of attitude to the Iraqi regime, all the more since Jordan still cooperates with this regime. He said that he would not make any contact with King Husayn until he felt a change in the Jordanian position to Saddam Husayn. To a question on reports to the effect that King Husayn had laid claim to the Iraqi throne, al-Sharif said: This question should be posed to King Husayn who has not declared this officially, since the overthrow of the Iraqi monarchy 38 years ago. He further said: King Husayn is king of Jordan. The Iraqi people should choose who will be a head of state of Iraq, who must be an Iraqi. [passage omitted]

Concerning his relations with the western states, al-Sharif said that he was dealing with the West on the basis of mutual respect and he was having contacts with the West to clarify his position on various issues, and consultations on various matters related to Iraq after the tragedy that has beset it. The pretender to the Iraqi throne urged the international community to help the Iraqi people get out of its ordeal, and not to remain idly by in the face of the crimes in Iraq. He said: We do not call for a military intervention, but for more pressure on the Iraqi regime, for isolating it, exposing its crimes, and denouncing what it is doing. Al-Sharif has been living in London for a long time after fleeing with his family to Beirut when he was young, following the coup of Abd al-Karim Qasim in 1958. He went to university in Britain.

Saudi Arabia

Turkish Envoy Supports Moves Against Drug Smuggling

LD2408130095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hakan Batan, charge d'affairs of the Turkish Embassy in the Kingdom, affirmed his country's respect and appreciation for the Islamic rulings implemented in the Kingdom on drug smugglers and dealers.

In a statement published today in UKAZ newspaper, he said that Turkey looked with respect and appreciation for the provisions derived from the tolerant Islamic Shari'a enforced in the Kingdom. He added: "We understand the position of Saudi Arabia in this respect and we consider it a great and noble stand to protect the citizens and residents from the dangers of drugs."

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Over the stand of the Turkish Government on the Shari'a rulings implemented against drug smugglers and dealers in the Kingdom, the Turkish charge d'affairs said: "Smuggling and dealing with drugs is confronted, throughout the world, with strict measures and punishments to curb the spread of these poisons. We, however, respect and understand the Kingdom's measures to protect the citizens from the dangers of drugs."

The Turkish official affirmed that Saudi-Turkish relations were historic and very strong and that the two countries were working to develop these relations for the benefit of the two countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

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Alleged Remarks by Hasan Criticize Jordan, Ekeus

JN2408183795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1802 GMT 24 Aug 95

["Important Political Report" entitled "For the Sake of Truth" — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] It seems that some people do not see the reality of Husayn Kamil Hasan and the reality of the destructive role he is playing to harm the relations between the two sisterly countries, Jordan and Iraq.

King Husayn described him in his speech, which we presented yesterday, Wednesday, 23 August 1995, as follows:

[Begin King Husayn recording] Dear brothers, here I would like to indicate that brother Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his family have contributed to clearing the vision to see what befell Iraq in terms of pain and suffering, which I do not think are greater than his suffering and that of his family when they made their decision to split from the kinfolk there and from the position, prestige, prosperity, and comfort in exchange for a greater comfort, which is that of a clear conscience toward the people and Army of Iraq. Husayn Kamil Hasan and his dear family came to their uncle's house and his care upon their own accord. [end recording]

[Announcer] But, what did Husayn Kamil Hasan say about sisterly Jordan? Here is the truth. The truth is what he said at the 9th session of the Council of Ministers on 20 February 1995, while defending his proposal, which he presented to the Council of Ministers, calling for exporting Iraqi sheep outside Iraq.

[Begin Hasan recording, identified by announcer] (?The besieged) must find a way for this. All our border neighbors are enemies. We do not have a friendly country, even Jordan. All our border neighbors are enemies. We do not have a friendly country, even Jordan. [end recording]

[Announcer] In his speech last night, King Husayn said:

[Begin King Husayn recording] I was shocked once again these days when I heard a confirmation of previous information I had obtained from Husayn Kamil Hasan during our first meeting, when he disclosed that Iraq massed its troops toward fraternal Kuwait to storm it once again were it not for the quick Arab and international reaction to the move. [end recording]

[Announcer] The truth, however, is that Husayn Kamil Hasan was the only person who was calling on the Iraqi leadership to:

First, cancel the acceptance of Resolution 715 on continued supervision.

Second, stop the cooperation with Ekeus and the Special Commission.

Third, occupy Kuwait and the eastern part of Saudi Arabia, contrary to the Iraqi leadership's inclination to work for lifting the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people and addressing the clamor created by the U.S. side in October 1994.

The following is Husayn Kamil Hasan's calls, in his own voice, at the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the [Ba'th Party] Iraq Command held on 10 October 1994. This meeting discussed a report submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on the results of his contacts with the Security Council member states and the heads of delegations to the UN General Assembly meetings. Husayn Kamil Hasan said:

[Begin Hasan recording] Regarding Ekeus, sir: I am of the viewpoint that Ekeus is filthy. However, we talk about Ekeus and tell France, Russia, and China that Ekeus is accursed and filthy. But once Ekeus' card is over, they present to us other persons. We discover this fact months or years later and begin to make efforts again. Ekeus is America and England.

Sir, according to my assessment, the least thing we can now do is cancel Resolution 715. Iraq's position should be clear, namely, if the United Nations does not specifically talk about lifting the blockade, we must take a quick position. This is so because if Resolution 715 is canceled, any move by Iraq will prompt them to make moves harmful to Iraq. They will also make use of time to intensify the presence of their force in the Arab region. Subsequently, or simultaneously, they will work for making Iraq harass its outlets; namely, Jordan, and the northern region [of Iraq] which they find easy to close in moments.

If Jordan is compensated or exposed to pressure, it will be prepared. It attacked Iraq for long periods through its king without justification and without reason. Sir, in my view, our decision should be quick. Otherwise, any delay in decisonmaking will weaken us, as well as our military capabilities, our party capabilities, and our supply capabilities toward our people. Perhaps they will make our people confront us. First of all, sir, we should make a quick decision. In my view, the problem is not Kuwait alone. But we will not leave the stick in the hands of other than Kuwait. [sentence as received]

The eastern region is the core of the problem, the eastern region is the core of the problem, the eastern region is the core of the problem. We have the ability, our people are prepared, our Army is prepared, and our

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capabilities are ready. Sir, let us not allow the enemies to strengthen themselves. Sir, regarding our military movement, we have not announced that we will restore Kuwait and we have not entered it. But the amount of statements and threats have reached their climax. The Russians make statements, the French are moving. Sir, all of them, including Russia, may enter into a direct aggression against Iraq on any occasion. Our military units are stationed in their positions, but a strike may be carried out under the pretext that Iraq has massed its troops and that they should curb Iraq's concentrations. Sir, Resolution 715 may be canceled easily, but sir, if we decide to cancel the resolution, we should see that U.S. or Western enemy units and forces will deprive our people of bread and many other things and make it restless.

Sir, in brief, decisions should be quick in my view. Delay in them means enemy concentrations, completion of enemy capabilities, and consequently, it will harm us even before we move. Before we move, we will find ourselves unable, and this will lead to a bad situation. [end recording]

[Announcer] This is the truth. Although the voice of Husayn Kamil Hasan was the only one that made that strange call and although the purpose of the meeting, which was attended by him and that made a decision in the opposite direction of Husayn Kamil Hasan's call, no one imagined at that time that Husayn Kamil Hasan was laying the ground for his traitorous role. Matters were taken in light of the rashness of Husayn Kamil Hasan every time he showed zeal for an idea even though it conflicted with the conferees' ideas about any issue under discussion.

Immediately after the joint meeting, the Iraqi foreign minister made a statement reflecting the decision by the Iraqi leadership under which all the military forces in al-Basrah Governorate were withdrawn to their rear positions. The foreign minister added: We stress this reality so that everything will be clear to the international community and so that those who have bad intentions will not destroy diplomatic efforts.

Iraq's decision to move its units on the same day was relayed to the Security Council's member states, to Fraternal Jordan, and to Turkey. This is the truth. God's peace be upon you.

Saddam Dismisses Hasan From Ba'th Party

JN2408204295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has approved a recommendation submitted by the Military Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party at a meeting held on 19 August 1995 that traitor Husayn Kamil Hasan be stripped of any material or moral privileges linking him to the Ba'th Party.

The president leader, may God protect him, commented on a cable in this regard sent to his excellency by comrade Samir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Najm, member of the Iraq Command and deputy secretary of the Ba'th Party's Military Office. He said: I concur. God is great. Long live the great Iraqi people and the great Ba'th Party. Accursed be the lowly.

Following is the text of the cable: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Ye that believe! Betray not the trust of God and the apostle, nor misappropriate knowingly things entrusted to you. [Koranic verse] Comrade leader mujahid Saddam Husayn, may God protect you; secretary of the Iraq Command; esteemed secretary of the Military Office:

A comrade salute. Exactly like the destiny of all great messages in the honorable history of our nation, the glorious Ba'th Party march had to occasionally remove tampering and evil from the ranks of its good crowds. Such persons find it difficult to bear responsibility if it lacks deviation. However, this deviation does not harm the march or undermine the resolve of its sincere and honest strugglers. In fact, this deviation prompts these strugglers to promote the march and fortify it with justice, chastity, faith, and sacrifice that will increase the march's brilliance, vigor, and knowledge.

My leader, may god protect you: The sincere comrades of your path in the organizations of the Military Office—whom you have known as swords brandished by your right hand, which is protected with the help of God Almighty, and whom you have known as models for the ideological action that fills the chests of fighters with courage and thrust which will bring closer the hour of salvation and crossing to the final victory soon, with God's help, and who are close witnesses—do not regret the ultimate downfall of the one who no longer is fit for his name; namely, Husayn Kamil, who is ungrateful and a victim of greed and hollow arrogance.

We notify your excellency of the Military Office meeting held on Saturday 19 August 1995, corresponding to 23 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira. The conferees recommend stripping Husayn Kamil of any material or moral privilege linking him to their militant party. All members of the Ba'th Party have the honor of allegiance to your excellency and to the great Iraqi people. We request your order to dismiss Husayn Kamil from the party on the basis of Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Article 68 of the party's by-laws.

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My leader, may God grant you success, increase your loftiness, and help you defeat your enemies, the enemies of God, nation, and principles. But that which is with God is better and more lasting: (it is) for those who believe and put their trust in their lord. [Koranic verse]

It is to be noted that the remainder of the traitors have been dismissed in accordance with the powers. It is up to your excellency's orders, with due respect. May God keep you the leader of our struggle.

[Signed] Comrade Samir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Najm, deputy secretary of the Military Office

[Dated] 20 August 1995

INA on Kuwaiti Minister's Denial of Troop Buildup

JN2508103795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1005 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 25 Aug (INA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Ahmad al-Humud al-Sabah yesterday told the Saudi television station of the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation that he can at this moment say with certainty that there are no unusual movements by Iraqi Army divisions. He added: Consequently, I am accountable for these words of mine to his highness the amir, the heir apparent, the government, the Kuwaiti people, the Arab nation, and the international community.

Ahmad al-Humud al-Sabah was reacting to a question by reporters on whether or not Kuwaitis are concerned over reports on Iraqi troop buildups near the borders, as the Kuwaitis who are spending summer vacation in Europe and the United States are afraid of returning to Kuwait, not to mention the fact that travel by Kuwaitis abroad has recently increased.

Paper Commends Ekeus 'Commitment' To End Sanctions

JN2508105795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0744 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the statement made by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, at the news conference he held in Amman the day before yesterday provides a good basis for what the UN Security Council must do to implement the operative provisions toward Iraq awaited by the world community.

In an article today, the paper adds: Much has been said about the importance of using a legal mechanism to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Likewise, much has been said about the integrity of all of these resolutions, and about the need to comply with them without any unfavorable influences or capricious interpretations. The fact that the UN Special Commission chairman made a statement epitomizing the credibility of this argument and describing it as the proper prelude to understanding the rights and duties of both Iraq and the UN Security Council promotes the spirit of the UN Charter and allows for the implementation of the legal mechanism.

The paper recalls that Ekeus, responding to a question at a news conference in Amman on whether or not the United States will continue to oppose a revocation of the Iraq sanctions no matter what Iraq does and regardless of its compliance with the relevant UN resolutions, made a commitment that all members of the UN Security Council without exception have no other option but to lift the sanctions.

The paper adds: The statement Ekeus made in this regard is a political and procedural axiom that should not be bypassed or obscured under any circumstances. There will be no value or credibility for the world body unless it upholds this principle. The prestige and reputation of the United Nations will be immensely damaged if it overlooks this concept.

The paper asserts that the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 are clear and not liable to different interpretations. There are no chances of evading its implementation unless their is a desire to act against international law and against the wishes of the international community.

Opposition Welcomes King's 'Attack' on Baghdad

NC2408162995 Paris AFP in English
1516 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Aug 24 (AFP) — Iraqi opposition leaders welcomed Thursday [24 August] a fierce attack by King Husayn of Jordan on Baghdad and hailed his call for democracy and respect for human rights in the country.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella group representing Kurds, Shiites and Sunni Moslems opposed to President Saddam Husayn, urged other Arab leaders to support Jordan's new stand on Baghdad.

"The INC welcomes and greatly appreciates King Husayn's interest in bringing in democracy, political pluralism and respect for human rights in an independent Iraq," it said in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia.

Jordanian officials on Thursday said King Husayn's speech the day before signalled an end to Jordan's warm ties with Iraq and amounted to an apology to Arab states for his stand in the Gulf War.

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"The break with Baghdad is now sealed, totally and brutally," a senior Jordanian official told AFP.

The INC said democracy would help to safeguard the unity of the country, made up of many religious and ethnic groups, and hailed King Husayn for being "the first Arab leader to recognize its pluralist society."

Vowing to fight "to put an end to the tyranny of the authorities in Baghdad," the congress appealed to all Arab leaders to rally to King Husayn's call.

The INC also praised King Husayn for having "revealed the responsibility of Baghdad for the suffering of the Iraqi people, as well as plans for military ventures against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

In a nationwide address, the king revealed that Iraq had been planning to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia a few days before the defections of two top-level Iraqi officials.

He also asked for the first time publicly if Baghdad "had been aware of the danger which resulted" from the outbreak of the 1991 Gulf conflict, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Jordan Urged To Sever Economic Ties With Iraq

NC2408170195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A few years after the 'Aflaqite Ba'th Party gained power in Iraq, it became evident that the essence of the Party's policy was based on dictatorship, war, and expansion. This policy was reflected in the war which the dictatorial regime launched against the Kurdish people and their liberation movement, in which it used criminal methods to conquer the will of our people. The policy was also reflected in the regime's criminal position toward its Iraqi Arab opponents and toward the Shiites in the south, in the eight-year war with Iran, in its hostility toward Syria and some other Arab countries, and in its invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. [passage omitted]

Jordanian King Husayn's speech to the Jordanian people is an important and substantial stop toward the end of this bloody regime and its leader, Saddam Husayn. King Husayn strongly criticized Saddam's policies and wished that the suffering of the Iraqi people would end with a dawn of freedom and liberation. In his speech, the king also stressed that Jordan has the right to search for other sources to secure oil needs, indicating that his country may dispense with the import of Iraqi oil. Jordan's import of Iraqi oil is in itself a violation of the embargo against Iraq.

We imagine that the Jordanian Government's next step will be to sever economic relations with the Iraqi regime. This would negatively affect the regime, not the Iraqi people. The reasons are as follows:

—The Iraqi people have not benefited from their country's resources or from imports, no matter where they came from.

—Trade with Jordan is carried out by the dictator and members of his family and henchmen.

—Three-quarters of the imports from Jordan go to the regime's stores and concerns.

—The customs imposed on the commodities imported by some traders go directly into the regime's accounts, not the people's.

—The revenues on oil imported by Jordan immediately go into the dictator's account. He spends them on his lackeys, forces, personal guards, and oppressive agencies, not on the people.

If the next Jordanian step will be to break off trade relations with the Iraqi regime, the regime will be coming closer to its inevitable end. This is what the Iraqi people are impatiently waiting for.

Hammadi Commends Mubarak Remarks on Current Crisis

JN2508102995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—Iraq has said that the statements Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak made to the Egyptian press yesterday are basically marked by a sound attitude and an impartial stand toward the tendentious media campaign that claims that Iraq planned military operations against Jordan and Kuwait.

In reply to a question posed by the Iraqi News Agency, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said that although Iraq has parted company with President Mubarak since the outbreak of the 1990 crisis, the statements he made yesterday reflect a good assessment of the situation and are tantamount to a call for noninterference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak told Egyptian reporters yesterday that he had heard King Husayn's most recent speech, which he termed political. President Mubarak added that the reports that Iraq might mount military operations against either Jordan or Kuwait are nonsense.

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President Mubarak went on to say that he has not heard of any Iraqi troop buildups. Regarding the U.S. troops being deployed to the region, President Mubarak said that the Americans described this activity as a precautionary measure. He added that the possibility of a military confrontation with the Americans is out of the question.

President Mubarak said: Nobody has the right to talk about the fall or survival of the Iraqi regime. This is because it is the people of Iraq who should decide such a matter. Such a matter has something to do with the will of the people, who must have the final say in this regard.

Opposition Leader Sees Saddam on Defensive

AU2408113795 Hamburg STERN in German 24 Aug 95 p 124

[Interview with Iraqi opposition leader in exile Ahmad Chalabi by Mario R. Dederichs in London; date not given: "Saddam Is Destroying His Power Base"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dederichs] What has changed in Iraq since Saddam Husayn's son-in-law Husayn Kamil Hasan escaped?

[Chalabi] Unfortunately, every conflict in the ruler's family promptly leads to a state crisis in Iraq. For some time now, Saddam has only trusted his sons Uday and Kuzay, who control the state and security apparatus.

[Dederichs] Could Husayn Kamil lead Iraq's opposition?

[Chalabi] Husayn Kamil would perhaps be in a position to overthrow Saddam. He has friends and relatives in the apparatus. However, Saddam and his sons know them — and they are about to eliminate them. When Husayn Kamil left Iraq he gave away his best chance.

[Dederichs] How did Saddam Husayn manage to survive so many coup attempts?

[Chalabi] Saddam has neutralized the army and the Republican Guards. The only armed force in the capital are the Republican Special Guards. These people are loyal because they know they will be killed if Saddam is overthrown.

[Dederichs] Will the Kamil brothers' flight change anything about this situation?

[Chalabi] Yes. Now Saddam also distrusts the special guards in which the two were influential. By his own action, Saddam is destroying his suppressive apparatus — and thus his power base.

[Dederichs] Will there be war between Iraq and Jordan?

[Chalabi] Even though King Husayn has called for the overthrow of the regime in Iraq, Baghdad has avoided every criticism.

[Dederichs] Are you now working for a putsch in Iraq?

[Chalabi] A putsch in Iraq must form part of an overall plan under which pressure is exerted on Saddam from all sides.

[Dederichs] How much pressure is still necessary? The country is suffering from the boycott.

[Chalabi] So far, there has been no pressure at home. Since the Gulf war, the Iraqi opposition has not been able to reduce Saddam's control in any area. This is possible now and would substantially increase the pressure. In a test operation in the north in March, we wiped out two divisions. Saddam took the threat so seriously that shortly after, he exchanged his whole general staff.

[Dederichs] How much help do you get from Arab states or the United States?

[Chalabi] We do not get what we really need. Some governments hesitate out of concern about Iraq's unity.

[Dederichs] And because Iran might exploit a power vacuum?

[Chalabi] But there is a vacuum almost everywhere in Iraq. The Shi'ite opposition can move freely in the south. Recently, the Iranians even carried out a commando operation against Iranian groups in exile in the center of Baghdad. If we occupy enough territory, we could lure the Iraqi Army over. They are ready to defect to us if we can supply them. We only need food.

[Dederichs] It has been criticized for years that there is too much disagreement within the Iraqi opposition and that it is too inefficient. Why?

[Chalabi] Because it consists of Muslims, Arab and Kurdish nationalists, democrats, and communists which have considerable ideological differences. Until two years ago it only existed in exile. With the Iraqi National Congress, we have brought home organized resistance. In northern Iraq, we have political and military contacts, newspapers, television and radio stations. We have printed a propaganda newspaper of the format of the government newspaper BABIL and have distributed thousands of copies in Baghdad. It is not easy to create the conditions for an Iraqi democracy. But it is becoming more and more likely.

[Dederichs] The question is who can lead a democratic Iraq? Could you?

[Chalabi] That will be up to the people to decide.

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Need To Get 'Necessities To Foil U.S.' Stressed

JN2408152495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0635 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper has said that the hostile U.S. media, military, and political campaign is nothing more than a miserable illusion that will soon vanish.

In an editorial today, AL-QADISIYAH says: The U.S. Administration has reaped nothing from this conspiratorial campaign. Iraq's stalwart leader, Saddam Husayn, has gained more esteem; the Iraqi people are firmer in their steadfastness; Iraq's political and media positions have achieved perfect harmony by deciding to continue to cooperate with the Special Commission; and Iraq's relations with its Arab brothers continue to be based on a spirit of pan-Arab principles. Iraq has also scoffed at the U.S. conspiratorial actions and has stressed the need to secure the necessities to foil U.S. evil purposes.

The newspaper adds that whoever watches the overall approach of the comprehensive U.S. action against Iraq over the past two weeks, on the military, political, media, psychological, and economic levels, will not need much effort to realize that this exposed activity is a blatant, open conspiracy.

The newspaper notes that America has moved its aircraft carriers and transported its troops in a hurry from Texas to Kuwait, while other troops arrived in other areas of the Arab nation to conduct training. The Americans, including their Defense Secretary William Perry, say that these actions are in response to Iraq's military buildup toward its Arab neighbors, as they claim.

The newspaper ridicules William Perry's disavowal of his earlier statements and allegations about the existence of alleged Iraqi movements. Perry told reporters that the United States has not monitored anything to prove that Iraq is preparing to invade Jordan or Kuwait, but the United States is transporting servicemen and hardware to the region as a precautionary measure to respond to any step from Iraq in that direction, as he claimed.

AL-QADISIYAH notes the shuttle tours of Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, which covered Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, noting that Pelletreau is publicly calling for dispensing with Iraqi oil with which Iraq supplies Jordan and compensating Jordan with Saudi or Kuwaiti oil to deprive Iraq of hard currency, stifle it economically, and starve its patient people.

This is happening in an open and ugly manner, let alone the accompanying psychological and media warfare, the discordant beating of drums day and night by several radio stations, and the fabrications and false stories that will not undermine steadfast Iraq, its leader Saddam Husayn, its patient people, and struggling media.

Paper on 'Folly' of U.S. Escalation Against Iraq

JN2408143095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0700 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that through its recent political, military, and media escalation against Iraq; the movement of its fleets and forces; the rapid dispatching of a number of its envoys to the region; and its show-like movements and fabricated clamor, the U.S. Administration looks like an acrobat who makes you laugh and wins your sympathy at the same time.

In an article today, the paper says: This U.S. party basically lacks good show, response, and enthusiasm. In fact, the make-up of its actors has immediately melted under the light, and faces appear as they really are — ugly and full of pimples.

It adds: They are captives to their imagination, rancors, and lies. They deal with peoples' destinies as if they are promoting a commercial on stagnant goods in their stores. Otherwise, how can we describe this new folly in which Washington has once again put itself face-to-face with Iraq in a hateful show of force and reckless threat.

The paper points out: The Americans were the only ones who spoke about Iraqi military moves to invade Kuwait and Jordan. They have tirelessly promoted this lie, and advanced the date for their joint maneuvers [with Kuwait], and went back again to deny their own claims on Iraq's military movements. This time, they confirmed their stupidity through Secretary of Defense William Perry to the effect that these were no more than precautionary measures against Iraq.

It notes that the Americans' disavowal of their lies in this manner gives a clear proof of the failure, bankruptcy, and confusion regarding all its moves, especially since the international situation is no longer as it was in the past, for many world states view the U.S. position and its delusions with a great deal of suspicion.

The paper says: Iraq has cooperated with the UN Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and given them all the information it has to facilitate the process of closing files and all that is related to Resolution 687. Therefore, Washington has unsuccessfully used the military movements as a pretext to obstruct the increasing calls for dealing fairly with Iraq, as well as calls on the UN Security Council to fulfill its obligations and lift the blockade.

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The paper stresses that the Americans have wagered on a losing card despite all their attempts to polish and peddle it in the hope of achieving their sick objectives. Thus, they have sustained a new defeat before Iraq's steadfastness, firmness, high spirit of jihad, and great confidence in making enemy plans backfire on them.

Radio Commentary Analyzes Pelletreau Tour

JN2508121595 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Robert Pelletreau is the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. This means that he is one of the assistants of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This U.S. State Department official is roaming Arab capitals, asking officials in these capitals to adopt certain policies, thus, ignoring any diplomatic courtesy. He is not even a personal envoy of the U.S. President. Regardless of whether these policies are related to Iraq and the U.S. stand which is hostile to Iraq, the way the request is made and the insistence on it implies more than one thing. Most importantly is the indifference to independent, sovereign, and internationally-recognized states which are members of the Arab League and other international organizations.

Furthermore, the aforementioned U.S. official exerts pressure on these states' officials to adopt policies undermining the vital interests of these states and reflecting negatively on future Arab relations in general. This is in addition to the fact that the U.S. request completely conflicts with the official Arab efforts to reactivate Arab solidarity and to adhere to the Arab constants and the bases of the joint Arab action. Although the U.S. official's tour was received with astonishment and disdain by the sons of the Arab nation, this official has insisted on defying the popular Arab will, and on showing indifference to the dignity of the highest-level officials in these states. Thus, he expresses an arrogant and uncivilized mentality which is a natural extension of the U.S. cowboy and Yankee, who supposedly have become something of the past, and who do not exist except in U.S. Western movies.

Regardless of differences among Arab citizens and the highest echelon officials, the genuine Arab citizens believe that this U.S. action is disgusting, provocative, and very rude.

Although we believe that Pelletreau has heard the echo of the Arab people's reaction in more than an Arab capital, we stress that pan-Arab pride is strong enough to not be affected by anyone under any circumstances. We also believe that this U.S. action has made it clear, to those who need further clarification, that the U.S. Administration has no consideration for Arabs and their rights, without any exception. This is because when the U.S. Administration behaves in such a disgraceful manner, it behaves as a colonialist, an occupier, a mighty power, forgetting the fates of those who behaved this way throughout history.

Kurdish Figures on Prospects for Reconciliation

NC2408125595 Paris AFP in English 1213 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah-al-Din, Iraq, Aug 24 (AFP)—Officials from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said Thursday [24 August] that reconciliation with their Kurdish rivals in northern Iraq remained a long way off despite a ceasefire accord.

Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, KDP secretary general, told AFP that his party was "seriously" working to apply the truce agreement reached with the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in US-sponsored talks in Drogheda, Ireland, on August 11.

But he said "I cannot say whether I am optimistic or pessimistic about the chances of achieving a lasting peace and stability in Iraqi Kurdistan."

"We will respect the terms of the accord but we don't know yet whether the other side will do the same. There have been bad examples in the past."

He warned the PUK that it was "impossible to change the power structure in the region by force."

Other KDP leaders in Zakho, Dahuk and Salah-al-Din in Kurdish- controlled northern Iraq accused the PUK and its leader Jalal Talabani of provoking the conflict which erupted in May 1994 and has so far left 2,000 people dead, according to Kurdish sources.

They said they had "serious doubts" that there could be a reconciliation between the KDP, led by Mas'ud Barzani, and the PUK.

The two sides are locked in a grim struggle for power and sharing vital tax revenues collected at northern Iraq's border posts with Turkey which bring in up to 150,000 dollars daily.

Both sides had agreed to create and maintain a permanent ceasefire in northern Iraq, demilitarize the main city of Irbil under PUK control and agree on collecting and distributing taxes.

So far only the ceasefire is in place and the two parties are due to meet again in early September with the United States and Turkey as observers somewhere in Europe to review the accords.

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Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf War and with the backing of a US-led coalition.

President Chairs Leadership Meeting

JN2408194795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting that was attended by Revolution Command Council members Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information.

Saddam Receives Thank-You Cable From 'Arafat

JN2508064995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in reply to a cable of congratulations he had sent on Yasir 'Arafat's birthday.

The cable reads as follows: With great pride and appreciation I have received your noble fraternal congratulations on my birthday. In my name and on behalf of the Palestinian people, I would like to thank you and wish your excellency continued good health and happiness, and the fraternal Iraqi people further progress and prosperity. I pray to God Almighty to enable fraternal Iraq to surmount its ordeal and to bring an end to the unfair embargo clamped on it so that Iraq may restore its pioneering role on the regional and international scenes. The Iraqis' diligence, relentless determination, and firm willpower will make this possible.

The cable adds: I would like to seize this opportunity to underline the strength of fraternal ties, cooperation, and solidarity between our two states and fraternal peoples. I cannot forget the firm support and backing you have extended to our people's struggle and their just cause so that our people may restore and exercise their inalienable legitimate national rights, chief among which is their right to self-determination and independent statehood with holy Jerusalem as their capital.

The cable further states: I would like to reiterate my great thanks and appreciation to your excellency. I wish you continued good health and happiness and the fraternal Iraqi people further progress along the path of loftiness and prosperity under your courageous and wise leadership.

Please accept my best regards. Let us proceed together so we may pray in holy Jerusalem, God willing.

Saddam Comments on Industry Minister's 'Pledge'

JN2508102195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, commented on a cable addressed to him by Industry and Minerals Minister 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God bless the men of industry and the mujahidin in this sector. Accursed be the lowly ones, the enemies of the people and the homeland.

The following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily God will defend (from ill) those who believe: Verily, God loveth not any that is a traitor to faith, or shows ingratitude. [Koranic verses]

Leader President Saddam Husayn, the symbol of the Iraqis' pride and the fluttering flag of the nation, may God preserve you as a hope living in the conscience of every Arab who seeks to do good for the nation and to restore its glories and message. O example for the freemen of the world who reject the logic of aggression and hegemony, O leader of this lofty people, this is the message of your faithful sons and soldiers, the strugglers of the industrial sector, addressed to you by the men whom you knew, tested, and called the mujahidin. It is the message of the good Iraqis who sacrifice themselves and what they have for your sake so that you will continue to be a bright sun even if the infidels may detest it. It is a message of permanent loyalty and true sacrifice addressed to your excellency by those who keep you in their hearts and eyes, and those who are united with you and with the unified, strong, mighty Iraq.

All your sons who work at the Industry and Minerals Ministry, wherever they may be at the sites of work, service, and production, are the men whom you know as a spring of loyalty, who compete in performing their duties and difficult tasks. Their love and loyalty to your excellency and to great Iraq will continue to be entrenched. The enemies before friends knew them when they prepared themselves to execute your order of launching the counteroffensive to reconstruct the country with all competence, honesty, and sincerity. Such mujahidn men are always united with great Iraq and historic leader Saddam Husayn. Their names will not be defiled by a disgraceful traitor, deviant, or renegade.

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In the name of the industrial sector, we renew the pledge. May God and His Holy Book be witness to our pledge. Our zeal and responsibility will be greater through your support, our sacrifices will be more, our clothes with you will be cleaner, and the organized systematic scientific approach and technological development will always be our guide. Proceed with us to glory, supported by God and His victory. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

[Signed] 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim, minister of industry and minerals

[Dated] 21 August 1995

Recent Allied Air Activity Reported to Arab League

JN2508113995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1030 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (INA)—Iraq informed the Arab League once again that Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to help them violate Iraqi airspace, which seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that the aforementioned aircraft continued their violation of Iraqi airspace on 11-20 August, during which time they carried out 738 hostile air sorties flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. A list detailing these violations was attached to the letter.

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Peres Remarks on Signing Ceremony, Terrorism

TA2508105495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today said that there was no guarantee that the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians would be indeed signed on 7 September. The signing ceremony may be postponed by several days. The foreign minister met this morning with members of the Council for Peace and Security, a body mainly composed of senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reserve officers. The council told Peres that they would hold a demonstration in support of the government's policies next Wednesday [30 August]. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports:

[Begin recording] [Shahar] Foreign Minister Peres briefed the management of the Council for Peace and Security on the details of the talks with the Palestinians while placing the emphasis on Israel's security needs. We are facing a situation, Peres said, in which suicide terrorists are trying to sabotage the process and we must confront this phenomenon which could have emerged even in the absence of peace negotiations. We will not spare any effort to capture the guilty, and everything necessary will be done. We must reduce the popular support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Peres added that the suicide terrorists or their handlers should not be allowed to receive the impression that Israel was losing its cool.

[Peres] A people must also be capable of holding its head high and acting calm even while receiving blows, not because this looks nice but because it is necessary for victory. We must not give the terrorists or their handlers the satisfaction of spreading fear or hysteria, which is what to my great regret is being done out of political considerations.

[Shahar] [passage omitted] Replying to questions by news correspondents, Shim'on Peres said that the signing ceremony scheduled to be held in Washington has historic significance.

[Peres] This is an event of international importance. What is all this nonsense? Some people do not know what to write about in the morning so they tell us not to hold a ceremony. Why not? This is an event of supreme international importance. First of all, it will promote the Israeli economy. Investors are coming here. We were never in such good economic shape. What do you think caused this? Is this the result of some economic miracle? No, it is the result of the peace process. [end recording]

Ben-Eli'ezer Calls For Transfer of Hebron Settlers

TA2408183995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that today, Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer called for the transfer of all Jewish settlers from Hebron to Qiryat Arba'. In a meeting with the Labor Young Guard, the minister said that this can be done immediately and that it is only a question of making the decision.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer believes the talks with Egypt over the killing of Egyptian POW's will be concluded through a quiet dialogue.

Two Hamas 'Terrorists' Killed; Curfew in Hebron

TA2508105095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists were killed in Hebron in a clash with the security forces. There are no casualties on our side. The dead terrorists are Ibrahim Qawasimah, one of the Hamas deportees to Lebanon who belonged to the Hamas military wing and had been imprisoned in Israel, and Nasir Shahhada, a collaborator with Hamas who had been detained in the past by the security forces due to his Hamas-related activities. Both men belonged to the squad led by Tahir Qafishah, who was killed some time ago in a clash with the security forces.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the operation in Hebron's Tuffah neighborhood was carried out by the Duvdevan undercover unit. The soldiers surrounded the house in which the terrorists were hiding at 0700 this morning. Following a shoot-out in which the terrorists were killed, the soldiers discovered a Kalashnikov rifle, an M-16 rifle, a submachine gun, and a hand grenade. The house in which the terrorists had barricaded themselves was bulldozed to the ground.

Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, said that the terrorists had planned to perpetrate murderous terrorist attacks against Jews in the Hebron area and in Judaea. He praised the Duvdevan squad and the Shin Bet's information gathering. Maj. Gen. Biran said that the war against Hamas was not over and done with. The security forces must continue to pursue all its institutions, leaders, and messengers. A curfew has been imposed on Hebron.

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Thousands Demonstrate in Jerusalem; 6 Wounded

TA2408185495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Video report by Rina Matzliah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There were violent clashes between right-wing demonstrators and the police in Jerusalem today. Despite major efforts by the Israel Police, thousands of Zo Artzenu demonstrators managed to reach the Prime Minister's Office as they had threatened to do. Rina Matzliah reports on what happened later:

[Begin Matzliah recording] Zo Artzenu members did it again. Despite police deployment, thousands managed to take to the streets of Jerusalem, disrupt traffic, and force the police to close important roads, such as the one in front of the government offices complex.

Hundreds of demonstrators made their way on foot to the Prime Minister's Office. The demonstrators' anger over the attempts to hold them up along the way and the frustration of the police over their failure to prevent the demonstrators from reaching their destination raised the threshold of violence. The angry mob attacked Jerusalem District Police Commander Arye 'Amit and shouted insults at him. 'Amit was injured in the legs when he was kicked by demonstrators, and he was rescued by a special police unit. [passage omitted]

The question is: Who is putting up the money for all this? Dozens of buses left for Jerusalem today. The demonstrators said the Likud is funding them, but the Likud denies any connection. [end recording]

Twelve people were detained in the rioting and six were wounded, including three policemen.

The police claimed tonight that the demonstrators managed to dupe them because the Channel 7 radio station guided their movements. The Channel 7 management vehemently denied the charge and said it did not assist today's right-wing demonstration.

Minister Qeysar Reports Steps To Bolster Security

TA2408134295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 95 p A4

[Report by Sharon Sade and Re'uven Shapira]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The police will bolster security on public transportation and soldiers will soon be incorporated into guard units set up by the Transportation Ministry, it was reported yesterday at a meeting devoted to the matter.

Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar said that the use of soldiers will be made possible in the wake of an amendment made to the military service law, prior to the Knesset's recess, permitting the police to employ soldiers for security missions.

The Transportation Ministry wants to add some 300 soldiers to its security guards unit, which currently consists of 100 people. The soldiers will guard buses and bus stations and will be responsible to the Transportation Ministry's security unit. Qeysar said that the number of guards now deployed on buses is insufficient, "but even if we put a guard on every bus, it will not guarantee that there will not be any attacks. Nevertheless, the guards now being deployed and each additional guard reduce the risk of attacks. We are taking these deterrent measures in order to restore the public's trust in public transportation, which declines after each terrorist attack."

Qeysar said that over 5,000 buses operate on 2,000 routes, transporting millions of people every day.

Brigadier General Yig'al Pressler, the prime minister's antiterror adviser, said that there is no intention of setting up a special military unit to guard buses at this stage and that the intention is to bolster the existing guard unit. Pressler added that there are solutions to the problem of suicide attackers, but did not go into details.

The meeting was attended by public transportation guards and the discussion focused on suicide terrorist strategies, people laden with explosives, and other issues. The media was banned from attending the meeting, and all the journalists were asked to leave before it began.

Next week, the police will begin to employ dogs trained to detect explosives. The first 15 dogs and their operators will be deployed in various locations that will change according to a predetermined plan, as well as urgent requirements and intelligence information.

Dozens of explosive-detecting dogs, some of which underwent special training in the United States in recent weeks, will be made operational in the coming months. [passage omitted]

Hamas Seen Aiming To Topple Rabin Government

TA2208093395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug 95 p 1

[Commentary by David Makovsky: "Hamas's Aim: To Topple the Government"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The statement issued by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on a Damascus-based Palestinian rejectionist radio station is not just the usual claim of responsibility for an atrocity, but carries a new twist. It now proclaims that it seeks to

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engage in a string of suicide attacks over the next year so it can manipulate next year's Israeli election.

No longer content to merely rail against the "Zionist entity," Hamas said its goal is specific — to force Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from office. Hamas said Rabin must go because he has declared war on Islam.

In the pre-Oslo days, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would regularly say that he preferred the "ugly face" of the Likud to Labor, which he said appeared to be moderate, but was not willing to give the Palestinians their full rights.

From a tactical perspective, Hamas has discovered Rabin's weak spot. After each previous suicide attack in a large urban area, public support for Rabin has not quite recovered to its prior level.

Rabin believes his critics have treated him unfairly. On the one hand, they blame him for attacks; on the other, he feels he is working hard against Hamas, which in turn has threatened to continue the killings precisely because Rabin is spearheading this "all-out war" against it.

There may be other unfair criticisms as well. Critics appear successful in turning every terror attack into an indictment of Rabin's peace policies, even before they know whether the bomber came from areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority or the territories controlled by Israel.

These critics haul out charts demonstrating how the number of those killed is greater since the Palestinians took control of Gaza, and therefore, the logical conclusion must be that Rabin's peace policies are at fault.

While honest people can debate the impact of the peace process on attacks, they cannot ignore that there is a new variable in the equation. This new element may have come along at the same time as the peace accord with the Palestinians, but has little to do with the peace process. Palestinian Islamicists are now willing to commit suicide and use technology to help them ascend to Allah.

Previously, only Hizballah members were willing to do this.

It was just a few years ago that most attacks by Palestinians were carried out by knife-wielding assailants, who after perpetrating their dastardly deed sought to flee.

A terrorist strapping a few kilos of explosives to his body in the desire to take as many people with him as possible is a qualitatively different development.

Therefore, a strict body count pre- and post-Oslo is not an adequate yardstick when the Islamic terrorists change their rules and use more sophisticated methods.

Hamas believes it now has Rabin on the run, seeing that some segments of the Israeli public sometimes seem more furious at the prime minister than at the actual attack itself.

Obviously, demonstrations are a vital part of a democracy. The question is whether unrestrained attacks on the prime minister — charging that he is personally responsible for every death or that he is a traitor — unwittingly play into the hands of those Hamas officials who have now decided that it is also in the their best interest to topple Rabin.

Plan To Thwart PA Entrenchment in E. Jerusalem

TA2308110995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli intelligence and security elements have advised government elements to pay special attention to the Temple Mount, to force the Palestinian Authority [PA] to remove the Waqf from Jerusalem, and to pressure Jordan to retain control over East Jerusalem's religious establishment, including the Temple Mount's Waqf guard. These recommendations were made in recent internal discussions attended by government, defense, IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and intelligence personnel.

Reports received by security elements indicate that while the PA has not been encouraging incidents or disturbances in East Jerusalem in general and on Temple Mount in particular, disturbances in the eastern part of the city serve its interests. It is believed that although the Palestinian authorities neither assisted nor had an interest in perpetrating terrorist attacks in Jerusalem, they may benefit from incidents and disturbances in East Jerusalem.

Speakers at the discussions emphasized that the PA was obviously inclined to avoid "aggravating Israel," and yet they painted a gloomy picture concerning the activities of the PA and of PA-affiliated bodies, which aim to undermine Israel's standing. They estimated, for instance, that the PA would make an attempt to assume complete control of the Temple Mount's religious establishment, including the appointment of Waqf clerics and a takeover of the Temple Mount guard; the latter would be reinforced through the establishment of an unarmed guard force. Reports from the field indicate that an escalation is expected between the security forces and the Temple Mount Waqf.

From the security standpoint, the participants in the discussions were particularly concerned about the possibility that the Palestinians would take control of several

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locations adjacent to Jerusalem. The reports show that areas abutting on Jerusalem, which will be under full Palestinian control, are liable — at least in the beginning, until the Palestinian regime is stronger — to serve as a convenient launching pad for terror attacks inside Jerusalem.

In the municipal sphere, the speakers noted the threat of the establishment of a Palestinian shadow municipality in East Jerusalem, along with an attempt to sever all municipal ties with the Jerusalem City Hall. The shadow municipality would provide basic services to Jerusalem's Arab inhabitants.

Government elements reported that the PA's Education Ministry has practically taken over private education in East Jerusalem, which is attended by over 50 percent of the students in the area. Furthermore, in the past year the PA also took over Jordan's role of controlling the school programs and the matriculation examinations, as well as issuing the matriculation certificates in the public high schools. It was further reported that the al-Quds University's establishment process was continuing.

The Palestinian protest activity in Jerusalem has escalated in recent months. It was particularly reflected in the protest and public relations efforts organized in connection with the land confiscations and house demolitions carried out by Israel. In addition, a systematic and persevering effort by Palestinian elements to purchase lands and assets in East Jerusalem has been reported recently. The effort included the purchase of the al-Quds movie house that will serve as a communications and public relations center, as well as 100 dunams of land in Bayt Hanina, where a sports compound will be built.

Senior elements estimated that the implementation of the next stage of the interim arrangement and the Palestinian rule's future proximity to areas abutting on Jerusalem will exacerbate the struggle for Jerusalem and prompt the Palestinians to increase their efforts to enhance their hold on East Jerusalem and to represent it as a symbol of Palestinian independence, at the same time reinforcing the link between East Jerusalem on the one hand and the elected Palestinian council and the territories it is to receive on the other. The Israeli elements believe that the proximity of these PA institutions — particularly the ones which have been and will be operating out of Ramallah — will result in increased Palestinian activity in Jerusalem.

To thwart these trends, government elements are drafting an extensive action plan that will include cooperation among the Justice Ministry, the IDF, security elements, the Intelligence Branch, and Israel Police. One of the recommendations is that the IDF should prepare for vigorous prevention activity along the Jerusalem-West Bank divide. It is further recommended to pay special attention to the Temple Mount and to force the PA to remove the Waqf from there. The relevant elements will be required to ensure that the Palestinian council has no authority in Jerusalem.

A senior government element said that a considerable part of the preventive measures lies within the Justice Ministry's jurisdiction.

Relocation of Boot Camps From West Bank Off

TA2508082295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Aug 95 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq last week invalidated some of the staff work done so far as part of the Spectrum B plan concerning the relocation of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] boot camps from the West Bank to Israeli territory. New orders issued by Shahaq note that the boot camps of the Golani and Paratroopers Brigades in the West Bank will remain in their present location for the duration of the interim period arrangement.

As part of the preparations for the IDF redeployment in the West Bank, Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i decided that the Planning Branch would coordinate the staff work involved in the relocation of boot camps from the West Bank and examine alternative sites within the boundaries of the Green Line. After reassessing the situation, the chief of staff has now decided to leave two large boot camps — the paratroopers' Sanur camp and Golani's Bezeq camp — in their present location for the duration of the interim arrangement.

All boot camps in the West Bank were supposed to relocate to Israeli territory as part of the IDF's redeployment. The plan provided for the relocation of the Engineering Corps' boot camp in Gush 'Etzyon, Bahad 4 near Bet El, the general training base in Qedumim, the paratroopers' Sanur camp, and Golani's Bezeq camp. Staff work was conducted and funds allocated for the implementation of the plan.

In view of the new decision, the Sanur and Bezeq camps will remain in their present location, in the area between Nabulus and Janin, although there are no Jewish settlements in those areas. According to plans, the IDF is scheduled to pull out of Janin very shortly. Military sources said the decision means that these areas will remain under Israeli control and will not be handed over to the Palestinians.

A senior officer said yesterday that according to the Spectrum B plan, other bases and camps will remain in

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their current location in the West Bank for the duration of the interim arrangement. He went on to say that the IDF will evacuate all its bases from the West Bank at the end of the process.

Security bodies are opposed to a Palestinian police presence in Hebron, however small, during the interim arrangement. Absolute opposition to allow a Palestinian force to enter the city was voiced in recent internal deliberations held by the defense establishment and the IDF, which demands to retain full control over Hebron.

Gaza Strip Salinization Affecting Negev Reserves

TA2508085595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Aug 95 p A3

[Report by 'Amiram Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to data obtained by the Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council, about 500 new water wells have been dug in the Gaza Strip since the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullout from the area.

Council head Shay Hermesh warned that Israel must urgently enforce a rational water regime on the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip because continued water pumping at current levels will lead to the rapid salinization of the southern coast aquifer.

Hermesh added that the salinization in the Gaza Strip is causing irreversible damage to the water reserves in the Western Negev. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Urged To Investigate POW's Execution

NC2508100195 Paris AFP in English 0828 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Aug 25 (AFP)—An Israeli historian called on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Friday [25 August] to investigate the execution of Israeli prisoners of war during the 1973 Middle East war.

"The Egyptian army executed more than 80 soldiers and officers captured during the October war according to the testimonies of repatriated prisoners," Arye Yitzhaqi wrote in a letter to Mubarak.

"I wrote to Mubarak because he has asked Israel to bring to justice those Israelis who executed Egyptian prisoners," Yitzhaqi, of Tel Aviv's Bar Illan university, told AFP.

A week ago Yitzhaqi revealed the massacre of hundreds of Egyptians as they surrendered to Israeli forces during the 1967 war.

Now Yitzhaqi has listed 10 massacres of Israelis who had surrendered, including the murder of 25 reservists of the 16th brigade on the Suez Canal and of 10 members of a tank unit captured at al-Qantarah.

"I hope you will reveal this information to the Egyptian people," Yitzhaqi told Mubarak. "Unfortunately such acts were committed by both sides during the war and it is time to turn the page."

The historian said Israel had kept quiet about the massacres so as not to damage relations with Egypt. The two countries signed a peace treaty in 1979. In testimonies taped by researcher Avi Yafeh, Israel soldiers relate how dozens of their comrades had been shot or bayonetted by Egyptians while they had their hands tied behind their backs.

Yafeh said he had not published their accounts before because he feared damaging relations with Egypt but recent stories of atrocities committed by Israelis had changed his mind. The publication of accounts of massacres by Israeli soldiers in the 1956 Suez campaign and the June 1967 war has caused dismay and official embarrassment in the Jewish state. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin condemned the killings but has refused to take action against the perpetrators.

Rabin: POW Question Could Open 'Pandora's Box'

TA2108052495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Aug 95 p 12

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Neither Arab nor Israeli interests will be served by investigating IDF [Israel Defense Forces] killings of Egyptian prisoners of war in 1956 and 1967, as it could open a Pandora's box for both sides, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin insisted at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

He turned aside an appeal by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni to publicly divulge all available information on the subject.

Rabin said there were unjustified Arab killings of Israelis also that occurred during the wars, and therefore neither side has an interest in digging up the past.

"During all the wars, the IDF has acted according to moral norms," Rabin said, according to a participant in the meeting. "I won't say there have not been exceptions, here or there. Those exceptions that we learned about when they occurred were handled. I am sorry that this issue has come out now, as there were also exceptions on the other side. We have no interest in raising this issue. Also, the Arabs have no interest in raising it."

Earlier this month, former Brig.-Gen. Arye Biro said he ordered the killing of 49 Egyptian prisoners during the

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Sinai Campaign in 1956, since he had no men to guard them. Military historian Arye Yitzhaq insisted that the IDF killed as many 300 Egyptian soldiers after they stopped fighting.

Israel has promised that it would provide Egypt with the material it has on the Biro killings, and officials said they expect the material to be ready by the end of the week. Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir is checking the legal implications of the request, his office said.

"We must deal with this," Aloni said, speaking on Israel Radio. "The government and then the education system...must say their piece so it will not end up that on the outside we are moral, better than the non-Jews, but then we sweep things under the carpet."

Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit said instead of worrying about past wars, the country should be focusing on the new peaceful relations with its Arab neighbors.

"I don't suggest that we open up matters that don't contribute to the new positive atmosphere between nations," he said. "It is time for opening up new pages, bright pages...not going back to older pages and getting ourselves involved in conflicts of the past."

German Minister: Annual Aid May Be Redirected

TA2508050795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Germany may decide to redirect the aid previously allocated to Israel to joint projects with the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. This was stated by Carl-Dieter Spranger, the German minister for economic cooperation, who is currently visiting the Middle East. He said that over the past 30 years, this aid has totalled approximately $100 million a year. Spranger said that his government would consider diverting these sums to projects dealing with water issues, agriculture, and the environment inside the autonomous areas and in Jordan. The German minister said that Syria and Lebanon would be incorporated into these plans after they signed peace treaties with Israel. The German minister is now visiting Jordan after touring Israel and the Gaza Strip. Tomorrow, he will leave for Damascus.

Shohat Rejects Proposal

TA2208693495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug 95 p 12

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday rejected Germany's proposal to cancel its annual assistance to Israel of 140 million marks [DM] and use the money instead to fund Palestinian development projects.

German Economic Cooperation and Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger told Shohat that Israel does not qualify for the assistance since the program is targeted at developing nations, and as of next year Israel does not meet that criterion.

Shohat reminded his German guest that the aid is also based on the special relation between his country and Israel.

The DM 140 million aid program is actually a loan at a concessionary annual interest rate of 2 percent, explained Economics Ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron.

At a later meeting with Economics Minister Yosi Beilin, Spranger suggested that Israel could be a partner in joint development projects with the Palestinians that would be funded from the aid that was previously going to Israel.

Beilin reiterated to Spranger the importance of German support for the creation of a Middle East development bank, not only based on economic grounds but also because of its political and psychological importance to the region. Beilin noted that the push for the bank is one of the most important joint projects that is being undertaken by the region's countries.

Germany is steadfastly opposed to the creation of the bank, although several European countries, led by France, support a two-step process that would lead to its establishment.

Spranger suggested to Beilin that in order to meet the economic needs of the region's countries without having to compete against the rest of the world, the World Bank could establish a local branch, thereby avoiding altogether the need for a new regional bank.

Plan for 1996 Defense Budget Cuts Reached

TA2408102595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Aug 95 p 12

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq reached a compromise yesterday to cut NIS [new Israeli shekels] 500 million from the security forces' wages and work conditions next year.

The agreement came after all-night marathon negotiations, which were preceded by intensive talks following Sunday's [20 August] cabinet meeting, where Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin backed out of his agreement to cut NIS 600m. from the 1996 defense budget.

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Shohat and Shahaq agreed to delay the security forces' wage increases, scheduled for January, to October, to slightly worsen service conditions, and to push off by nine months salary grade rises for generals. Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef refused to provide specific details on the reductions.

The compromise will translate into a NIS 375m. cut in the defense budget and NIS 125m. from the police and other security services, whose wages are linked to those of the army.

Under the original plan, which was opposed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the military salary cuts would have saved NIS 400m.

The pact removed the proposal to freeze the security forces' wages and pensions next year, which was the bone of contention between Shohat and Shahaq that undermined the agreement to cut NIS 600m. from defense next year.

Other likely sources of budget cuts that have been proposed include delaying the separation payments which retiring soldiers receive a year before they leave until after they leave, which will provide a one-time savings of NIS 120m.

Another proposal under discussion is raising the retirement age for military personnel who do not have battlefield jobs to the civilian retirement age.

Treasury officials were waiting until yesterday's decision to complete the specific budget reduction proposal that Shohat will present to the cabinet on Sunday.

Both Rabin and Shohat have said that defense spending cuts would be necessary this year to lower the resistance of their colleagues to cuts to their budgets in an election year.

The cabinet last month approved a NIS 2.15 billion cut to the 1996 budget.

Although the reductions agreed with the army are NIS 100m. less than originally planned, Shohat said absorbing this in the budget would be a manageable task.

Commentary Urges Support To Topple Saddam

TA2408140095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Saddam First"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The defection of Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law rekindled the U.S. pressure to topple him. Robert Pelletreau rushed off to Amman to plead with King Husayn to sever his ties with Baghdad; warships sailed toward the Iraqi shores. The volatile situation compelled Israel to reassess its position and to regrade its enemies.

The outer eastern circle, which includes Iraq and Iran, remains the bastion of the Arab refusal to make peace with Israel, whose strategists have had to choose the lesser of two evils. By abstaining from retaliating for the Iraqi Scud missiles fired during the Gulf war — at the high cost of humiliating public panic — Yitzhaq Shamir contributed to the efforts of the Western-Arab coalition. What interested him was not the liberation of Kuwait but the chances of toppling the Iraqi regime.

If the Western media reports that the Ze'elim B accident occurred while soldiers were practicing an attack on Saddam Husayn are true, then that says it all. It would be no easy task, however. Even if the accident had not occurred, the operation would not have gone through. The success of using force against Saddam depends on the Americans. But is Israel still as eager as before to see the downfall of the despot who has made a mockery of the Middle East and the United Nations?

Some experts do not consider the ouster of Saddam a supreme Israeli interest. They warn that his departure from the scene will cause the country, which David Fromkin described as "a British invention" in his book "A Peace To End All Peace, to disintegrate." Fromkin quoted a U.S. missionary who said that describing Iraq as a homogeneous political entity is tantamount to challenging 4,000 years of history.

It is feared that Saddam's fall might encourage neighboring countries to seize territory from Iraq, which would leave the extreme Shiite leadership in charge of Baghdad or its vicinity, pulling down all barriers before fundamentalist Iran. These experts would rather have a united and threatened Iraq led by a demented regime that hates Iran.

Although it is true that the regime of the Tehran ayatollahs poses a cardinal strategic threat to Israel and the Middle East (restraining them is primarily up to the United States), relying on Iraq's territorial integrity and on Saddam to keep Iran at bay is ludicrous. A graver threat does not outweigh a more imminent menace.

First, because Saddam Husayn is totally unreliable. He is not embarrassed to see his lies exposed. What will UN envoy Rolf Ekeus negotiate with him? After all, even if he exposes all of Saddam's nuclear, biological, and chemical arms industry with the help of his sons-in-law, it would still be a mistake to lift the economic sanctions on Iraq, because the moment Saddam goes back to selling oil on the free market, he will try to revive his nuclear program.

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After the defections, CIA officials said that had Iraq had a nuclear bomb in 1991, the United States would not have embarked on the Gulf war. According to this same report, Saddam was only three months away from a first atomic fission.

Israel has the highest interest in seeing his downfall. Were peace in the Middle East to turn into true reconciliation, the Arabs would seek the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] military cooperation to bring him down, and we would have good reason to comply. Under the present conditions, this will not happen, and the IDF will be asked to stay away. What to do?

This being the case, Israel has no reason to object to the firing of Tomahawk missiles from U.S. ships anchored near its shores or to plead with Washington not to topple the Baghdad regime by force because of its fear of Scud missiles. Of course, Israel should not commit itself to taking Iraqi missiles indefinitely, no matter how many are fired or at what frequency. At the same time, it must make clear to itself and hint to its allies that if the United States tries its luck in yet another military round, Israel may repeat, with some reservations, the passive performance it displayed in the first round.

This is a high and humiliating price, but it is worthwhile if it brings about the establishment of a pro-U.S. regime in Iraq, even if Saddam's successor does not join the regional peace process any time in the near future.

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TV Reports on Joint Military Maneuvers With U.S.

JN2508070995 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] American and Jordanian troops have been conducting joint military maneuvers over the past few days in a desert area in Jordan. Samir Farraj Reports:

[Begin recording] [Farraj] In the desert south of Amman, U.S. Marines and Jordanian soldiers carried on their last days of the joint military exercises. The troops fanned out across the southern desert around the al-Qatranah military camp, 120 km south of Amman.

As we approached, we were able to see tanks, artillery, helicopters, mobile radar units, in addition to thousands of troops all spread out as part of the exercises.

The maneuvers which were planned six months ago include at least 4,000 Jordanian soldiers along with almost 2,000 U.S. Marines. The main objective of the exercises, nicknamed Infinite Moonlight 95, is to pass on knowledge, share military information and experiences.

[Brigadier General Hamid al-Sarayirah] The exercise aims at achieving the following objectives. One, executing joint military training and at desert conditions day and night; second, exchanging knowledge and experiences on desert warfare; third, enhancing and promoting mutual military understanding and friendship; four, improving the standard of deployment of troops and battle procedures.

[Farraj] U.S. Marines in camouflage desert fatigues instructed Jordanian soldiers on radar system and 224-60 mm mortars, and portable Dragon anti-armour missile. The forces participating in the exercises will work on small units and move on to battalion side operations by the end of the two-week long exercise.

[Colonel Robert Blose] Things are going well so far. We're having an absolutely magnificent time here training in the desert. We do this sort of thing in the California desert at home and the environment is somewhat the same. And so we are not completely foreign to it. As far as working alongside our Jordanian counterparts, again, the cross-cultural exchanges that are taking place from our young Marines at the lowest level all the way up to my level, what we are learning from eachother, promotes that friendliness [word indistinct].

[Farraj] The exercise include air, ground, and sea maneuvers. [end recording]

Writer Attacks Joint Maneuvers With U.S. Marines

JN2508074095 Amman AL-NIDA' in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 3

["To Tell The Truth" column by Dr. Bassam al-'Umush]

[FBIS Translated Text] I have recently set my eyes on U.S. marines on the desert road coming from al-'Aqabah, equipped with their individual weapons and armored personnel carriers, for joint maneuvers with our Armed Forces. I felt disgust for seeing an alien army desecrating our land, particularly since this army desecrated the Arabian Peninsula a few years ago and continues to control Arab oil wells.

This army is an army of pirates. It is the army that killed approximately four million Vietnamese and a large number of Japanese nationals. This army was disgraced by the dropping of two atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is the army that deployed units to threaten North Korea and occupied several states, including European states, under the guise of operating NATO military bases there.

The killing, destruction, devastation of infrastructure in Iraq, and the occupation of the northern part of Iraq are all unforgettable under all circumstances. For these reasons, among others, I feel disgust when I see this army, whose moves are only aimed at upholding injustice. Otherwise, why has this army failed to act to uphold the rights of the Bosnians, who are butchered daily by the criminal Serbs?

Likewise, why has this army failed to act to halt the massacre committed by Yelstin, the communist mummy, against the Muslim Chechen people?

By contrast, this army acted in the Gulf although it hates all Gulf nationals, all Kuwaitis and all Saudis. It did so because it wanted to control oil resources and oil wells.

This is the only army in the world that forged a strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy's army. It airlifted military hardware to the so-called Israel to save it during the 1973 war.

This army is an army of sea pirates, as attested to by what happened in Grenada, Haiti, and elsewhere.

It is true that our army has for the past few years taken part in joint maneuvers with the U.S. Army. Nonetheless, these maneuvers are unacceptable under the current circumstances, particularly since they coincide with new U.S. threats against Iraq in terms of people and resources, and are aimed at further humiliation and exploitation.

We in Jordan are unsatisfied with what is going on. May these forces leave our land. The Arabs pose no

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threats to us. Our army, in which we take pride, is the party entrusted with protecting our lands. As for the sons of the homeland, they rally behind it without any reluctance.

'Official Source': Amman Rejects U.S. Iraq 'Offer'

JN2408115295 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 24 Aug 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AKHBAR AL-USBU' — A senior official source has told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that the Jordanian Government told the visiting U.S. delegation, which left Amman on 22 August, that the government will not take part in any measures that attempt to tighten the siege on Iraq by closing the Jordanian-Iraqi border and stopping dealing with Iraq.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' learned that the U.S. delegation conveyed offers, including financial incentives, from other countries to support Jordan economically if it closes its border with Iraq. However, Jordan rejected these temptations and told the U.S. security delegation that Jordan cannot possibly take such a measure because this conflicts with its policies and appeals for Arab solidarity and for lifting the Iraq blockade. Jordan also told the U.S. delegation that its rapprochement with any Arab country will not be at the expense of harming its relations with other countries.

The U.S. delegation went too far in its suggestions to isolate Iraq, asserting that the Iraqi regime's days are numbered and that it is in Jordan's interest to work against Iraq. Jordan rejected the United States' arguments. Jordan stressed that it will not interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and that the people of Iraq should decide their political future without foreign assistance because Jordan does not like anyone to interfere in its domestic affairs.

The U.S. delegation presented to the Jordanian Government figures on Jordan's trade with Iraq and Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation, as well as other figures on the gains Jordan would make if it took part in implementing the U.S. Administration's decision to topple the regime in Iraq and install another regime that supports Jordan.

The U.S. Administration asked Jordan to give it three months to implement a scheme to topple the Iraqi regime provided that Jordan closes the border with Iraq, stops cooperation with Iraq in the public and private sectors, involves the Iraqi defectors in Jordan in political activity against the regime, and assembles the Iraqi opposition in Jordan.

Jordan strongly rejected the U.S. scheme and pointed to the risks inherent in it, as well as its inaccuracy and probable failure, according to information available to the Jordanian security agencies about the reality of the Iraqi opposition and the official Iraqi infiltration of all its organizations and leaders. Jordan warned that information available to the government indicates that the regime in Iraq is very strong, that Saddam Husayn's regime is one of the strongest Arab regimes, and that what should be done is to accommodate the Iraqi regime rather than confront it. Jordan is willing to take part in accommodating the Iraqi regime and involving it in the peace process and the new world order and in any other peaceful effort that seeks to reform the regime, but not confront it.

Official Jordanian sources estimate that Jordan's losses if it closes its border with Iraq will amount to a little more than $5 billion annually. The losses are broken down as follows: More than $1 billion in frozen debt; price differences of oil exports from Iraq to Jordan—$250 million; direct Jordanian exports to Iraq—$250 million; transit goods—$250 million; return of land transport and the cost of stopping truck shipments—$1 billion; al-'Aqabah Port activity—$500 million; and $2 billion in Iraqi investments in Jordan conducted by Iraqi businessmen who support Iraqi President Saddam Husayn through dozens of trade offices in Amman.

In addition, Iraq can absorb unemployment in Jordan when the embargo is lifted. Jordan will lose billions of dollars if it loses this privilege.

In another development, AKHBAR AL-USBU' learned from arrivals from Baghdad that U.S. intelligence personnel plan to conduct several sabotage operations on the Iraqi-Jordanian border and inside Jordan and Iraq to justify closing the border with Iraq. U.S. intelligence personnel may even ask the Iraqi opposition to conduct large-scale activities on the Iraqi-Jordanian border to force the government to close the border with Iraq and stop cooperation with it.

Concerned Iraqi agencies leaked information to the Jordanian Government via official channels. The Jordanian Government stressed that it will not be carried away by any foreign attempt to harm Iraq.

Amman Radio Reports on Ekeus' News Conference

JN2308123395 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN official in charge of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has said: Iraq's new policy of cooperation and releasing information had advanced the date for ending the ban on Iraqi oil sales. Mr. Rolf Ekeus told a news conference here in Amman that Iraq pledged it is now committed to honoring the 1991 Gulf war cease-fire resolutions and if

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that happened the UN Security Council would have to lift economic sanctions. He added that Iraqi leadership declared to him that its policy from now on is a full implementation of the cease-fire agreements. He said his commission has received in Baghdad a large amount of important information, but this information needed to be verified.

Concerning the chemical weapons, he said his commission has concluded that Iraq has no chemical weapons that might threaten the region. Mr. Ekeus said Iraq told him that it destroyed all its biological weapons, but the UN also needs to verify that. He added that he does not see any capability for Iraq to produce nuclear weapons. Here is more about his visit to Baghdad:

[Begin Ekeus recording] We have to remind ourselves that the cease-fire arrangements after the Gulf war was laid down in UN Security Council Resolution 687 which Iraq has formally accepted and formally agreed to. The cease-fire arrangements, I repeat, are formally accepted by Iraq. It was done so in April 91 after the war. So, I have to emphasize in our contacts with General Husayn Kamil Hasan no issues relevant to Iraq's legitimate security interests, or security concerns, including its conventional armaments, have or are dealt with between the UN side and General Husayn Kamil Hasan.

We had talks in a positive spirit, addressing the issues of common interest and common concern. Within this context, several different questions were dealt with. Further meetings at a later stage are envisaged. Husayn Kamil wanted me to stress, what he told me, namely that Iraq must get rid of its weapons of mass destruction, so Iraq can again become part of the international community. As I informed the international press in Baghdad large amount of important new information, we say important because we already earlier said it is valuable. [sentence as heard] We have, in our talks, addressed exactly the prohibited weapons issues. I don't want to make an assessment in this stage [word indistinct] merit in the cases there are discrepancies and I don't want even to address the extent of discrepancies between the two types of information. I will only say that we, because of the size of the information handed over to us, we need to verify this. We have statements, now it is time to verify the correctness and truth of these statements.

It is significantly closer in the sense that concealment in large scale, I mean this gross concealment which we have suffered since the end of the Gulf war and which has put all the suffering to the Iraqi people, which has been Iraq's own single-doing, not by the UN and the members of the Security Council, this is squarely and completely Iraq's systematic denial of its existence of a major biological warfare program which has delayed everything. Now, obviously, when Iraq makes these major concessions and disclosure this is important step forward, and of course that is good news for all of us, for the United Nations and first of all for Iraqi people. And we will, of course, try to speed maximum, and that's our (?sort of) the part of the deal with Iraq, we will make maximum effort to move quickly and to put the Security Council in the position to take the necessary decision for sanctions. [end recording]

Ekeus Rules Out Lifting Sanctions, Concludes Visit

JN2408175995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, has left Amman concluding a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Ekeus met with 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, education minister, and acting foreign minister, who reaffirmed Jordan's concern for the need to lift the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people and to fully comply with the UN resolutions.

Ekeus also met with General Husayn Kamil Hasan.

In a predeparture statement to our radio, Ekeus said:

[Begin Ekeus recording, in English] The Security Council will meet in the first half of September to address again the question of lifting sanctions. When they do that, they address, first of all, the weapons issues, but also other outstanding issues, like the question, for example, the Kuwaiti missing persons. As there is as yet no complete result in the weapons areas, and I guess other issues are still open, I don't think...[changes thought] I don't believe the Council will move with regard to easing the sanctions at this time. [end recording]

Columnist Says Ekeus 'U.S. Intelligence Officer'

JN2508075195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 20

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah]

[FBIS Translated Text] No political refugee can possibly carry in his memory or in his bags top "scientific secrets" compiled through research and experiment by hundreds of Iraqi scientists and engineers. The defecting general [Husayn Kamil Hasan] has "intelligence secrets." Therefore, Ekeus's trip to Amman has nothing to do with the mission entrusted to him by the Security Council. The Swedish ambassador [Ekeus] may not wish to disclose the real nature of his mission now as a U.S. intelligence officer. Yesterday's statement by the

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Israeli chief of staff before the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee leaves no doubt about the man's mission.

Ekeus has unequivocally stated that the Iraqis are now incapable of producing nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. He added that what they produced of these weapons was destroyed with their approval and that they are being monitored to prevent any future production.

What is then meant by the theatrics played by Ekeus and the inspectors, and the cease-fire theatrics other than fabricating pretexts to maintain the embargo imposed on Iraq? This is one objective. The other objective is to get rid of the Iraqi scientists, the Iraqi political decision-making, and the Iraqi will to be armed with science. They seek to destroy the capabilities that have accumulated over the years.

We have to realize that over the past three years, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have taken in over 11,000 specialized Iraqi doctors under humanitarian pretexts. How much did this huge number of specialists cost Iraq? How many years and how much money will Iraq need to re-produce such a number?

Rolf Ekeus said—and we are aware of the fact—that during the military confrontation Iraq was unable to use its weapons of mass destruction to defend itself because Baghdad can use this deterrent weapon to threaten Iran, Turkey, or Israel, but it cannot use it against the United states, Britain, or France. These states are capable of retaliating by using a nuclear weapon in a war such as that of the Gulf, and world public opinion was prepared for that.

The objective then is to maintain and tighten the embargo. The objective is to make Iraq succumb, compromise its national will, and stand in line with those who are stripped of their will in this fragmented homeland.

Radio Interviews Iraqi Defector Hasan

JN2508164095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Interview with General Husayn Kamil Hasan, former Iraqi minister of industry and minerals and Military Industrial Organization director, by Randah Habib, in Amman — date not given; recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Habib] With what faction of the Iraqi opposition are you cooperating?

[Hasan] There had been no prior coordination with any of the opposition factions. Also, we are currently not allied with any opposition faction. We deal with everybody in a clear manner and depend on consistent action because our chief concern is to change the regime and to see Iraq become a safe country which lives in peace and enjoys full freedom and the use of its resources which are now not in the hands of the Iraqi people.

[Habib] On what do you base your talk about a coup in Iraq? With whom will you cooperate inside Iraq to make this coup succeed?

[Hasan] Do you think that someone who wants to stage a coup and change the regime will announce on the radio that he will cooperate with so and so of the Army commanders? I cannot answer this question.

[Habib] But in your view, do you have enough support in Iraq?

[Hasan] Yes, we have support and we are confident that there is great support from the Army units, the Republican Guards, the people, and state officials.

[Habib] You talk about a political program for Iraq's future. Can you give us the dimensions of this program?

[Hasan] The first point in our political program, which we want to implement in the future, God willing, is that Iraq must be a stable and safe country that is free from wars and trouble which was caused by the regime. Anyone can see that Iraq has been fighting wars for 15 years. At the same time, we want Iraq to enjoy its natural resources and to cooperate and interact with the Arab region in an active and serious manner and serve its own interests and the interests of the Arab region. We also want Iraq to cooperate with the other neighborly non-Arab countries of the region, in a satisfactory manner that ensures Iraq's interests and the rights and interests of the neighborly countries. We also want political freedoms in Iraq and a free press, political parties, political pluralism, and parliament. We call for all these things in light of the situation which is now very difficult in Iraq. There is no freedom and there is nothing. The media agencies now speak on behalf of the citizens. Sometimes, citizens are jailed — and this is a law in the country — the security agencies arrest people according to the mood of these agencies and the [words indistinct].

[Habib] You spoke yesterday in a press review about your desire to visit Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Have you set a date for the visit?

[Hasan] No, we hope that all the neighborly Arab countries will be our field of action. Yes, we have the desire, but so far we have not decided to visit Saudi Arabia or Kuwait.

[Following the interview, the announcer adds that the "full text" of the interview will be carried at 1900 GMT]

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Hasan Says Broadcast Was 'Falsified' by Iraq

NC2508155895 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 25 (AFP) - Former Iraqi industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan said Friday [25 August] that tapes broadcast in Iraq in which he appeared to urge Saddam Husayn to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were a fake.

He told AFP by telephone that Iraq had "falsified" and dubbed together his words to discredit him after his defection.

A tape recording supposedly dating from October when he allegedly denounced UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus as "a liar" was a "montage of comments made during a meeting of leaders on the attitude towards Ekeus."

"I said that we shouldn't turn the issue into a problem between Iraq and Ekeus by treating him as a liar and a bad man and by asking if he were French, English or American. My words have been dubbed together."

The suggestion in the broadcast late Thursday which was widely published in Iraqi papers on Friday that he had urged Saddam to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia "was a complete fabrication."

"We have become used to the lies and the falsehoods of the Iraqi regime," he said.

As for another recording which Iraqi television said was made in February when he supposedly said Jordan was "hostile" to Iraq, Hasan said the words came from the same meeting.

"I said at the same meeting that all were our enemies except Jordan, and they have turned that into especially."

Hasan was granted asylum in Jordan with his brother and their wives, both daughters of the Iraqi president after their defection on August 8.

Prince Hasan Comments on Iraq, King's Speech

JN2508054295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has emphasized that what is important now is to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, and that recent developments concerning this issue emphasize Jordan's pivotal role in the region.

This has come following the meeting with Carl-Dieter Spranger, German minister for development and economic cooperation, who is visiting Jordan.

His highness answered questions posed by German television following the meeting with the German minister that was held at the Royal Hashemite Court. His highness spoke at the meeting about the objectives of the Middle East and North Africa Summit, which will be held as a means of stressing the priorities of the Middle East peoples and the participation of the countries of the region in peace building.

His highness also spoke about Jordanian-German cooperation which is positively reflected on the people's of the region and works for overcoming the period of conflict which the region has lived under for decades. The guest minister stressed his country's friendship, the need to enhance Jordan's pivotal role, and German determination to support the Jordanian effort toward real construction in the Middle East that is beneficial to the peoples of the region.

[Begin recording, in English] [Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] A few questions. Germany has $140 million it would love to spend in the area. What would you like to spend them on? Do you have any ideas?

[Hasan] Well we have a very clear focus on removal of disparities in the region, and I would like to say that the October summit will be focussing in particular on the comprehensive development of the Jordan Rift Valley. And when I say comprehensive development, I would like to make it clear that Israeli-Palestinian participation is not only invited but encouraged because at the end of the day we are talking of trans-national concepts of cooperation and longer term industry.

[Correspondent] Are you talking for example...[pauses] one idea I heard was a train which is supposed to be built between Haifa, Irbid [word indistinct] did you talk about that also?

[Hasan] Well, we have focussed on water projects essentially; we have focussed on water treatment in particular of sewage going into the Dead Sea; we have spoken about bridge crossing arrangements and the possibility of participation in the construction of bridges; and we have focussed also on manpower training which is I think, if I may without presuming on the German side, a strong point in terms of German assistance.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] Situation in Iraq, how do you see the situation in Iraq?

[Hasan] Well, we have, as you know, been reminded by the recent defections to Jordan of senior Iraqi officials of the pivotal role of Jordan in the region. And when I say we have been reminded, I think that the world has been reminded of the fact that Jordan is an open

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window on Iraq and on the Iraqi people. As far as official relations are concerned, obviously these are maintained despite the difficulties and the respective embarrassment. We noticed that his majesty's statement yesterday was relayed in full by the Iraqi media, but clearly we do focus on the importance of the recognition of the dictates of the United Nations resolutions relevant to Iraq. But also we take heart in the statement by Rolf Ekeus that if these resolutions are respected, it is imperative that the world recognizes the importance of erasing the embargo in the interest of alleviating the suffering and the anguish of the Iraqi people.

[Correspondent] His majesty yesterday said that Iraq planned in fact another invasion of Kuwait and of Saudi Arabia. Do you have other evidence for that apart from what Husayn Kamil said. He claimed it, but does he have other proof?

[Hasan] Well, as his majesty said we have been privileged to knew information, and I think I would just leave it at that, but I think that the main issue is to effectively say that there has to be a present and a future — a present of uncertainty and questioning which hopefully can be transcended by us all. And when I say by us all of course I look with interest to coordination meetings between all of Iraq's neighbors, including Iran, Syria, and Turkey. I look with interest and concern at the movement of armies and navies from the oceans and seas neighboring the region. Clearly the heat and the pressure is increasing, but I hope we can stand here in a few months as 1996 dawns and say that 1995 was a year of evolution, and evolution for the better. But I think to dwell on conspiracies and to dwell on the past only increases confusion and bitterness, and does not give us a real prospective of the future.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Columnist Views Interest in Iraqi Developments

JN2508082195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 32

["The Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talk about Iraq is the talk of all meetings and nights; and the talk of the neighboring states; the extremist, moderate, pan-Arab, leftist, and conservative parties. It is also the talk of the remote states which have interests in the region and which seek to have interests in the Middle East. It is also the talk of the United Nations and the UN Security Council. The Iraqi event continues to be new and exciting, and writing about it is not boring in light of successive developments, and in light of what we hear and read in terms of daily rumors, contacts, and close and conflicting analyses, some of which are unfair, and some others of which are blindly biased and lack logic and credibility.

For us here in Jordan, our interest in Iraqi developments continues to be required and necessary as long as what is taking place in Iraq is not confined to general pan-Arab concerns, but goes beyond that to undermining our national, economic, and social security. To make sure of this, we should imagine what would happen if a devastating war, may God forbid, broke out there, and if this current division turned into a permanent partition and more than one state was established on the rubble of the unified state.

Let us recall that when it launched its comprehensive war against Pakistan in the mid-seventies, India's pretext was that it could no longer take more mass waves of immigrants from Bangladesh in the wake of the internal partition which was entrenched when the Bangladesh people rallied around Awami League leader Mujibur Rahman to confront the unity which Islamabad sought to impose by force.

Let us also recall that when he dispatched his forces to Lebanon in 1976, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said that he did not accept the fragmentation of a neighboring Arab state in which any development affected Syria's national security, and that Syria could not remain idle while receiving successive waves of mass Lebanese immigration.

So that those who refuse to see facts as they really are will not misinterpret me, I say that I am not claiming that we should interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, for this issue must be considered a taboo, but I am attempting to explain this extraordinary Jordanian interest in Iraqi developments on the level of the government, the various parties and forces, and the ordinary man in the street, who is very delicate and sensitive.

Energy Minister Reportedly To Visit Iraq in Aug

JN2208090795 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 19

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—Jordanian Energy Minister Samih Darwazah will arrive at the end of this month on an official visit to Iraq. During the visit, expected to last several days, Darwazah will meet with a number of Iraqi officials.

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Minister Comments on East Jerusalem as 'Capital'

MM2308100495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "In an Official Position Announced by East Jerusalem, Jordan Considers East Jerusalem Capital Of Independent Palestinian State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has announced that East Jerusalem should become the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

Observers consider al-Kabariti's statement in this connection the first public official Jordanian position vis-a-vis the status of Jerusalem in the light of Israeli claims that unified Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the State of Israel.

Al-Kabariti's position came in his answer to a question put to him by Deputy Hamzah Mansur on behalf of the Islamic Action Front's deputies, requesting clarification about the official Jordanian position on east Jerusalem. Al-Kabariti said that Jordan believes that the Palestinians should have their capital in the occupied eastern part of the city. As for the holy sites, they will not belong to a particular party; they will belong to us all. That is, all those who believe in and worship one God. The Jordanian official offered no details about this issue, nor did he say whether the holy sites will run by an international, Islamic, or joint administration as currently proposed.

Al-Kabariti pointed out that, in accordance with the provisions of the (Oslo declaration of principles) agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the Jerusalem issue has been deferred until the final phase of negotiations. And if the final negotiations do not result in Palestinian Arab sovereignty being restored over east Jerusalem, the Jordanian position will be prompted to coordinate with the Palestinians, fraternal Arab states, and the international parties, and to work to secure Israel's withdrawal from east Jerusalem and to restore Arab sovereignty over it.

Official Reiterates Position on 'Occupied' Jerusalem

JN2308152995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and minister of education, has stated that the Jordanian position on Jerusalem remains firm and unchanged; namely, that Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian and Arab territory which Israel occupied in 1967, that the Palestinians have a right to it and to establish the capital of their state on its land.

Responding to questions by Deputy Hamzah Mansur at the House of Representatives today, al-Rawabidah said:

[Begin al-Rawabidah recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I thank the honorable deputy for his careful reading of the government's response. We tell our brother that the Jordanian Government's stand has never changed; namely, that Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967, is an occupied Arab territory; that it is Palestinian land. The Palestinians have the right to decide its fate and establish their capital in it in the form they want and deem fit. The Jordanian position has never differed from this stand. Any talk on the religious sovereignty or the religious status has nothing to do and will have nothing to do with that land because it is Palestinian territory which is covered by all the UN resolutions.

If the honorable member wants to leave Jerusalem to those who believe in its Arabism and Islam, then we are those people. It is we who believe in its Arabism and Islam and we will never one day concede this position.

Brothers, the Jordanian stand is not contradictory and will never be. However, the political action is carried out within a wide framework; part of which are the aspirations and part of which are the realities and possibilities. We are moving within this framework but without conceding territory, for which the Palestinian brothers now have responsibility.

The talk about halting the negotiations must be addressed to the party with the primary responsibility. It must be told this before Jordan is told. Postponing the subject of Jerusalem has not been a Jordanian decision. I hope that the questions are addressed to those authorized.

As for us in Jordan, we will continue to be at the side of our Palestinian brothers in order to enable them to obtain their full rights, establish their independent state on their territory with Jerusalem as its capital. Thank You Mr. Speaker. [end recording]

Joint Energy Research Accord With Israel Reported

JN2008115595 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan has signed an accord with Israel to allow joint research into energy resources. Jordan's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah said the accord will include joint studies on exploiting oil shale for commercial use. Jordan has 40 billion tonnes of oil shale deposits.

The accord spells out joint geophysical and geological research in the Jordan Rift Valley stretching south of

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the Dead Sea to al- 'Aqabah. Work has started on an electricity link between al-'Aqabah in Jordan and nearby Elat in Israel. Jordan and Israel will exchange ideas on extending oil pipelines across their territories.

More on Energy Accord With Israel

JN2008200895 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 20 Aug 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Israel today signed an agreement for joint cooperation in the area of energy resources. The agreement signed in al-'Aqabah is in line with the peace accord reached between Israel and Jordan in October last year. Today's agreement was signed by Energy Minister Samih Darwazah and his Israeli Counterpart Gonen Segev.

Darwazah said the agreement provides for cooperation and studies on the use of oil shale, solar, and wind energy. The accord also spells out joint geophysical and geological research in the Jordan Rift Valley. Moreover, Darwazah said the agreement allows Jordanians to go to Israel to monitor records relating to radiation. He says this would allow Jordan to be informed of what happens on the other side. Israel operates a nuclear reactor at Dimona 40 km west of the Jordanian border.

Report Addresses 'Normalization' of Kuwaiti Ties

JN2008144295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Nabil Ghishan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliamentary quarters have expressed satisfaction over the tangible improvement in Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as a result of the efforts by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and his meeting with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Parliamentary sources from the Islamic Action Front [IAF] bloc confirmed to AL-ASWAQ that the government asked the IAF deputies to open channels of communication with Kuwaiti parliamentarians from the Islamic trend to accelerate the normalization of ties between the two countries. The source noted that the IAF deputies asked the Jordanian House of Representatives to extend an invitation to Kuwaiti deputies to visit Jordan or to arrange for a visit by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation to Kuwait. Once such an official step is taken, the IAF deputies can play an effective role in the reconciliation, especially since the two sides still have open channels.

Meanwhile, parliamentary sources warned against the official media's overoptimism about the economic advantages of restoring ties with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Deputy Munir Subar, rapporteur of the House of Representatives' Finance Committee, said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait cannot substitute for the Iraqi market.

The Finance Committee rapporteur told AL-ASWAQ: The Jordanian- Iraqi relations are far more important than relations with the Gulf states because most of the ideas related to economic development and economic projects were based on the significance of the Iraqi market, especially after lifting the embargo.

Regarding news reports that speak of a U.S. request to sever economic ties with Iraq, Deputy Munir Subar said: The government has announced that it has no knowledge of such a U.S. request. However, even thinking about such a step will cause a major setback to the Jordanian economy, particularly as regards oil, which we get from Iraq for free or in the form of barter deals. Such a step will force us to secure the necessary hard currency to pay the bill of oil [from other sources]. This will reduce Jordan's hard currency reserves. There is also the question of Iraq's debts to Jordan, which exceed 1 billion dinars.

For his part, [Trade and Industry Minister] 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib denied the existence of such a U.S. request. He underlined Jordan's position on Iraq, which was voiced by the prime minister during his meeting with members of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee.

In another development, the Finance Committee rapporteur said the gains to be reaped from the Amman economic summit will not be as large as the official media is suggesting . He said: The Amman conference is a conference for Middle East and North Africa development. The western states no longer give aid and credit without studying the economic feasibility to ensure that they can secure a profit.

Minister al-Kabariti Reportedly Leaves Hospital

JN2408084895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti left the Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery on 23 August after recovering from an illness.

A medical source told AL-DUSTUR that al-Kabariti had an intestinal virus but has fully recovered. He will report to work on 26 August.

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Al-Hirawi Returns After Talks With al-Asad

NC2508054095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to the B'abda Palace at 2145 yesterday after holding talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the Syrian capital.

President al-Hirawi held three rounds of talks with President al-Asad dealing with developments in Lebanon and the region and the obstacles hindering the peace process.

Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Quriyah announced that the closed meetings between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi focused on several issues pertaining to regional and Arab developments, the peace process, and the position to which this process has sunk because of Israeli policy.

Quriyah added that the two presidents also discussed cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries and issues of mutual interest.

Hizballah Radio: Israel Will Be Blown to Pieces

NC2508094995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Commentary from "A Pause With an Event" program: "The Sane Take Revenge on the Deranged"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The racist Zionist entity has been shaken again. Following the bus bombing that struck Tel Aviv like a thunderbolt last month, another bomb has shaken occupied Jerusalem.

A martyr attacker believed to be a female member of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has carried out a heroic operation, leaving 100 dead or wounded, including many occupation officers and troops.

At 0800 on the day of the operation, the Ramot Eshkol neighborhood greatly resembled Tel Aviv's Ramat Gan suburb. The weeping, wailing, and screaming were the same. The body parts that flew here and there and the bus wreckage were the same as in previous cases.

One other similarity pertains to the martyrdom operation itself. The religious and political motives, the planning and executing party, and the objectives were all the same.

A further similarity was that Zionist officials hurried to the scene and were subjected to the Zionist public's anger.

On both occasions Yasir 'Arafat condemned what he described as terrorism. He accused the Islamic Republic of being behind the attacks, seeking to obtain U.S. and Zionist approval by joining the chorus of the Islamic Revolution's detractors, ignoring this revolution opening a bureau for the PLO and the Palestinians—the Palestine Embassy.

The Islamic Revolution tried to raise 'Arafat to lofty heights but he insisted on clinging to the mud and plunging into dirty swamps.

In legal jargon the person who carried out the operation, whether a man or a woman, performed the martyrdom operation in a premeditated manner. In the language of jihad, this person sought from the bottom of his heart, spurred on by his religion, to eliminate those who occupy the land by force.

While the person who set the al-Aqsa Mosque on fire on 21 August 1969 was described as deranged, we can now simply state that reason is taking revenge on madness, that religion is taking revenge on disbelief, and that the victim is avenging itself on the criminal.

The Jerusalem incident reminds us of the thick dossier of Israeli crimes, which bears one title: The organized extermination of a nation by uprooting its members from their land, forcing them to flee, using a smokescreen to conceal their tragedy from sight, and indeed, regarding this nation as nonexistent.

When the spark of life reawakened in this nation and it forcefully imposed its presence, a major bloody campaign was started, to tear it apart and terrorize it. Proof of this is plentiful in events in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Galilee, and the Negev.

On 24 July, soon after the Tel Aviv martyrdom operation, Shulamit Aloni, a minister in Yitzhaq Rabin's government, declared that West Bank settlers act almost like the Serbs. Had she enjoyed more freedom of thought or had she been liberated from the chosen people hangup, she would have dropped the word "almost," because the Serbian war of extermination in Bosnia-Herzegovina is being repeated at the hands of the West Bank settlers with the encouragement of the Likud bloc and Jewish religious political parties and also with profound understanding from Rabin and Labor Party circles.

Actually the vast majority of Israelis do not effectively object to the killing of the Palestinians, exerting the most hideous pressure on them, or blackmailing them.

In return the Palestinian Authority [PA], which alleges that it represents the state of Palestine, does not permit any popular Palestinian retaliation for Zionist crimes. Every time the Palestinian strugglers retaliate, Yasir 'Arafat and the members of his wretched government hasten to condemn terrorism, pledge to fight Palestinian

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Islamist forces, and threaten to cut off their hands. But the PA does not make its voice heard when the Zionist occupiers amuse themselves by killing the Palestinians, breaking their bones, demolishing their homes, expelling them, and annexing their land.

At any rate, 'Arafat himself is convinced that the Zionists have been inventing one lie after another since the Oslo agreement was signed to prevent him from exercising any authority, however partial, even in the Gaza Strip. They believe the Oslo agreement must produce a new agreement every day, not to be implemented of course.

It is a series of misleading, deceptive acts at which Yitzhaq Rabin is very skillful. 'Arafat has put all his eggs in Rabin's basket. His very personal fate is in Rabin's hands.

For this reason the Zionists have agreed among themselves to squeeze 'Arafat like a lemon until not a drop is left for him to wet his dry lips. If this were not true, why would Ehud Baraq, interior minister and former chief of staff, put it this way: We must wait to see if 'Arafat can eliminate Islamic terrorism.

Whether or not 'Arafat is given wider borders for his frail domain, the Zionist enemy will understand only the language of force. This is the only tool that will force him to halt his massacre of the Palestinians. 'Arafat has become a full partner to this massacre. Early in 1995, following a round of Israeli-'Arafatist talks, Shim'on Peres described the Oslo agreement thus: We were negotiating with ourselves.

Now, after this series of martyrdom operations, what can Peres say?

If the question were put to us, we would say this: The Zionist entity has turned into a passenger bus that will be blown to pieces some time.

Hizballah Radio Rounds Up Operations in South

NC2508080595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist occupation forces have continued their attacks on the areas near the occupied border strip in the south and western al-Biqa', bombarding areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the central and eastern sectors of the south. Israeli warplanes have carried out extensive sorties over these areas.

Operating from their positions in al-Zaffatah, the occupation forces shelled Jabal al-Rafi', al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Nab' al-Tasah, and the al-Zahrani River area in Iqlim al-Tuffah. These areas were also raked with machine-gun fire from an occupation emplacement in al-Suwayda'. The wooded areas of al-Qatranah and al-Surayri in the eastern sector were the target of 12 artillery shells. There were intensive flights by Israeli warplanes, which broke the sound barrier twice. One sortie extended as far as Beirut.

Shortly before 2200 last night the strugglers of the Islamic Resistance confronted an attempt by the Zionist enemy forces to advance on the Abu Rashid hills. A fierce clash ensued in which every kind of weapon was used. This was accompanied by concentrated 155-mm artillery fire from the enemy's positions in Sahl al-Khiyam and Kafr Huna.

The Islamic Resistance declared that the Israeli agents suffered numerous casualties. It also announced that its sniper unit snared and killed an Agent in the al-Suwayda' position. An Islamic Resistance statement reported that in response to the Zionist assaults on peaceable villages its artillery unit pounded the al-Suwayda' position with mortar fire and scored direct hits.

Ambassador Mubarak, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, sent a message to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali informing him of a series of eight Israeli attacks against the south and western al-Biqa' in the second half of July, notably the bombardment of villages and towns in the area, the incursion of Israeli military trucks, and a raid on Mlita in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The ambassador urged that his message be distributed as an official UN General Assembly document.

SLA Patrol Attacked; Fighting Follows Raids

NC2508105795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a series of statements a short time ago reporting that one of its groups detonated an explosive device under a civilian vehicle in which members of Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] were riding on the road to Hula at noon today. One of the statements said the targeted car was hit and its occupants wounded.

Regarding clashes on the western al-Biqa' axes this morning between the Israeli forces and the Resistance, the Resistance announced that beginning at 0930 today it confronted Israeli warplanes, which raided Maydun, Birkat Jabbur, and Jabal Abu Rashid.

A statement by the Resistance added that the Israeli forces prepared the ground for their military moves on the western al-Biqa' axes by shelling several villages near the battle lines. Long-range Israeli artillery resumed

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its bombardment of Maydun, Birkat Jabbur, and Abu Rashid soon after midday today.

Israeli planes overflew Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps this morning. Meanwhile Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of Shaqra, Majdal Silm, and al-Saluqi.

Our correspondent Nadia reports on fresh developments in the south:

[Begin Nadia recording] George, a source in Lahd's forces has confirmed the report you mentioned at the beginning of this newscast that an explosive device was detonated at noon today under one of their patrols in the western sector of the occupied border area. The source could not confirm if there were any casualties. The source said the device exploded at 1225 while the patrol was passing on the Hula road. Meanwhile the Voice of the South radio, mouthpiece of Lahd's forces, announced that Israeli helicopters resumed their raking and bombardment of areas lying opposite the western sector of the border zone at noon today. Clashes are being fought now with Hizballah members in the area. [end recording]

Fadlallah Sees 'No Likelihood of Toppling Saddam'

NC2408063095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the U.S. is not targeting the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, in any political, military, or economic action, because it still needs him.

He added that the military show in the Mediterranean, which is meant to blend with that in the Gulf, is meant to surround and intimidate Iran and Syria one way or the other and send more than one message to those who oppose U.S. policy in the region.

His eminence added that the U.S. has killed several birds with the one stone. It restored Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia, and probably with Kuwait and the other Gulf states, as a reward for Jordanian-Israeli conciliation and gained an advance position on the Syrian border, Fadlallah said.

Ayatollah Fadlallah added: There is no likelihood of toppling Saddam or taking any military action against Iraq, at least for now. It is only a show of U.S. military muscle, he said.

UNIFIL Says No Massing of Israeli Troops

NC2408111195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance today announced that two of its men were martyred during an attack against a South Lebanese Army patrol in Jazzin. Machine guns and antitank rockets were used in the attack.

Israeli warplanes bombarded the Islamic Resistance positions in Jazzin. And Israeli artillery in Qal'at al-Shaqif bombarded the meadow between Yuhmur and Kafr Tibnit at 0730 this morning. [passage omitted]

Timor Goksel, official spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has denied media reports that Israel is massing troops. He said only five guns were moved to the eastern sector.

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Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Review Arab Developments

JN2508061595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at al-Rawdah Palace at 1130 today. The meeting was also attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

This meeting was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam joined the two presidents following the luncheon given by the president for his guest.

The talks dealt with issues related to developments in the Arab arena, the peace process, and the status of the peace process as a result of Israeli policy. The talks also dealt with cooperation and coordination between the two sisterly countries and issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Paper: Importance of Meeting

JN2508092495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the importance of the Syrian-Lebanese coordination, asserting that the march of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Lebanon, has made large strides in all areas to consecrate the commonality of stands, objectives, and destiny, and to confirm to all that adherence to national and pan-Arab rights and defending them with all firmness and strength can thwart all kinds of plotting against the two countries, whose common stands epitomize the Arab nation's dignity, pride, and loftiness.

The paper adds: Southern Lebanon has turned into a real combat area due to the continuation of the valiant resistance and the painful blows it has dealt to the occupation troops. The two fraternal countries are waging a peace battle on two inseparable tracks of negotiations that have remained immune to Israeli penetration. The two countries are determined to liberate the occupied territories and regain all rights. This has supported and promoted the fraternal bilateral ties, which were crowned more than four years ago with a brotherhood, coordination, and cooperation treaty. This march has proceeded in the best possible manner thanks to the eagerness of leader al-Asad and President al-Hirawi to exchange views and hold consultations on Arab developments. Hence, yesterday's summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi served to address Arab, regional, and international developments, particularly those pertaining to what has become of the peace process due to the intransigent Israeli stands and Israel's refusal to comply with the rules of international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions.

The paper notes that the full understanding between the two leaders and their determination to defend the nation's rights have thwarted all Israeli attempts to deal with the two countries one at a time, as manifested in the open aggression against southern Lebanon.

Reports on Foreign Minister's Meetings in Denmark

JN2508060595 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Copenhagen, 24 Aug (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Danish Prime Minister Poul Rasmussen in Denmark this morning. The meeting was attended by Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen; Syrian Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Sulayman Haddad, Syrian ambassador to Denmark; 'Abd-al-Hasib Istiwani, director of Western Europe Desk; Dr. Hani Habib, director of the Economic Department; the Danish ambassador in Damascus; and senior employees of the Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry.

The foreign minister conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen who asked al-Shar' to convey his sincere greetings and wishes to his excellency the president.

Talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East, particularly the peace process developments. In this regard, the Danish prime minister stressed his country's keenness on the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and preserving the Palestinian people's rights.

Talks also dealt with the situation in Europe, particularly developments in Bosnia, and the importance of the Barcelona conference for cooperation between the European Union [EU] countries and Mediterranean countries scheduled for next November.

Earlier this morning, Faruq al-Shar' met with the Danish Parliament speaker. The delegation accompanying al-Shar' and the Danish ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with the Middle East peace process developments, the obstacles mounted by Israel in the course of the peace process, and the need to realize a just and

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comprehensive peace in the region, given the fact that it is the only means to achieve a genuine peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region. The foreign minister extended an official invitation to the speaker of the Danish Parliament to visit Syria at a suitable time. The Danish speaker accepted the invitation gratefully.

A round of official talks was held at the Danish Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen today between the Syrian side led by al-Shar' and the Danish side led by Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen and attended by the two delegations.

The talks dealt with developments of the peace process and the situation in the region. Realizing comprehensive peace based on implementation of international legitimacy and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and the principle of land for peace, especially since comprehensive peace is the only way to ensure security, stability, and progress in the region.

For his part, the Danish foreign minister stressed the importance of the EU's role, including Denmark, in advancing the peace process.

Talks also dealt with bilateral relations. The two sides expressed eagerness to expand and enhance these relations in the economic, scientific, technical, and cultural fields, and stressed the importance of balanced trade exchanges. Also discussed was the importance of Barcelona conference next November, which will deal with cooperation between the EU states and the Mediterranean countries, and the importance of the Syrian participation in that conference.

Israelis Urged To Learn From Palestinian 'Events'

JN2408172095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Over the past two weeks, current events in the region intermingled with appalling past events. The Israeli army's practices against the Arab Egyptian POW's during the 1956 tripartite aggression and the 5 June 1967 aggression were revealed by Israeli researchers themselves. Thus, the Israeli officers who committed the brutal acts of violence, that is, exterminating the POW's in contravention of all international laws, had to confess to these practices. If we recall the acts of violence revealed by the Israeli sources themselves early this year — like the Abu-Shushah village massacre in Bab al-Wad area near Jerusalem in 1948, in addition to the Kafr Qasim massacre which coincided with the annihilation of Egyptian POW's in 1956 — then the region's history is no longer divided into past and present as it turns into a history rife with woes and catastrophes over decades.

Nevertheless, there has been an opportunity for four years, that is since the Madrid conference, to turn over a new leaf in the life of the region — a leaf characterized with an orientation toward security and stability based on a just peace that guarantees the dignity of all in this region. However, the Israeli intransigence and penchant for expansion, hegemony, and blackmailing, which governed and still governs the policies of Israeli officials, has stalled the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Neither Syria nor Lebanon may relinquish a grain of their national soil or the rights of their people. These Israeli trends threatened this historic opportunity to the degree that it now requires a rescue operation by the international community in general and the peace process cosponsors in particular.

Partial solutions emanating from the Israeli inclination to expansion and hegemony, which Israel failed to impose on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, proved to be a fiasco in the occupied Palestinian territories, given the exacerbating violence witnessed on both sides, and not on one side alone. The Israeli officials were talking angrily about the suicide operation the day before yesterday. Still, they cannot deny that they have imposed an extremely harsh embargo against the Gaza Strip at least 10 days before the Jerusalem operation. Furthermore, the Israeli officials cannot deny that the extremists of rabbis and their likes have not stopped, not even for a single day, their attempts to encroach upon the holy al-Aqsa mosque and that settlers have not stopped their attempts to usurp Palestinian lands to set up settlements. They have not either stopped their killing of Palestinians and demolition of their houses, as has happened in Ramallah four days ago and in Hebron a month ago. Additionally, Israelis announce on a daily basis that they will press ahead with Judaizing Arab Jerusalem, enhancing, rather than dismantling, settlements, and augmenting the Israeli occupation of the West Bank heights and the Palestinian Valley sloping toward the Jordan Valley.

The Israeli officials cannot claim that their violation of the rights of the Palestinian people appeals to this people. Above all, instead of admitting its responsibility for tension in the occupied territories, Israel alleges that the sources of this tension are from outside the occupied Palestinian lands. Events in the occupied Palestinian territories provide a good lesson to those who wish to learn it. The gist of this lesson is that any security arrangements or military measures cannot realize security and safety in the absence of a just and comprehensive peace. For this peace to be realized, the tendency for peace should triumph on the tendency for

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expansion and hegemony which lurks in the minds of Israeli officials. If this happens, the Israeli officials will become convinced that it is impossible for others to relinquish their rights, lands, and sovereignty. Then, this conviction should be translated into facts on the ground through a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian, Lebanese, and Arab territories. Only then will a just peace that ensures rights, security, and dignity for all the parties in the region be realized. Such a peace would serve as a strong guarantee for world peace and for the stability of world peoples' interests in this vital part of the world.

Paper Urges Effective European Role in Region

JN2508080095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Dialogue of Civilizations," AL-THAWRAH discusses the Barcelona meeting scheduled for November. The paper says: The idea of European-Mediterranean partnership presents a new perspective for Arab-European ties. This perspective departs from the framework of the traditional Euro-Arab dialogue and provides hope for building a new kind of cooperation between the Mediterranean states, both European and Arab. Such cooperation has its direct justifications in history and geography.

AL-THAWRAH says: Europe, which tried and is trying to depart from its great colonialist heritage, was for some time influenced, in various ways, by the Zionist view of the conflict. It adopted at various stages the Zionist viewpoint and fell victim to the Zionist propaganda. However, despite the many negative effects they had on the Arabs, the world changes produced one positive point — they removed the clouds covering the eyes of Europe, which felt, in practice, the sincerity of the Arabs' peace intentions.

AL-THAWRAH says the Arab and European Mediterranean littoral states have so many means to cooperate with each other. They also have the justifications and reasons for such a cooperation, and will undoubtedly find the suitable mechanisms to develop this cooperation.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Prospects are open for cooperation that will benefit all states in the region economically, technically, and scientifically. This requires a more active European role in the peace process after Israel had rejected any European role in the Madrid conference. Europe must move from the current political shadow and must have greater influence on the future of the region, in terms of the search for peace and stability, and in accordance with international legitimacy, especially since Europe has significant influence in the biggest forum representing that legitimacy.

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Afghanistan

Pakistan's Bhutto Sends Greetings to Rabbani

LD2408193595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The esteemed Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, sent the following message when flying through Afghan airspace, addressed to the esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan:

Esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan — As I fly through the airspace of your great country toward Kazakhstan, I would like to take the opportunity to convey once again my best wishes for your good health and prosperity.

Radio Criticizes Pakistan Over Ties to Opposition

LD2308215595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Commentary by BAKHTAR political commentator]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Afghanistan's foreign policy is based on noninterference in the internal affairs of others. In return, Afghanistan will not allow anybody to interfere in its internal affairs.

The BAKHTAR political commentator writes:

There are political opponents in every country. The opposition's role in the progress and prosperity of a society is no less important than the party in power. In Afghanistan, however, such an approach has become visible in a different way. The active government opponents, guided by foreigners, are actually after the country's destruction. [passage omitted]

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has clearly time and again said that the country's existing issues can be resolved through talks and understanding and by political means. Afghanistan has announced its preparedness in this regard. On the contrary, the opposition forces have always sought to topple the state by military means and have not accepted the path of talks and understanding within a political framework. [passage omitted]

The countries mutual interests can be secured in having good relations and reciprocal cooperation. However, if a country wants to secure its particular interest through contacts with different groups, this is an action that is contrary to international standards and interference in the internal affairs of the other country.

Entering into any kind of agreement, dispatching aid, or having diplomatic relations with the state's opponents by a country, without the consent of the Islamic State, is a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's embassy Islamabad has recently sent a note to the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan, in which concern has been expressed regarding the statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. After returning from Afghanistan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan said that he was sending a 16-man delegation to Mazar-e Sharif that had already been agreed with Dostam. This delegation will assist Dostam in the area of petroleum, electric power, and telecommunication.

This action, if it takes place without Afghanistan's consent or consultation, will be a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Without consideration of all accepted international norms, Pakistan is endeavoring to strengthen the government opponents.

On the other hand, the Pakistan ambassador in Afghanistan, in a television interview, has said that Pakistan wanted peace and security to be restored and a friendly government to be set up in Afghanistan. An Islamic sovereignty has already been set up in Afghanistan and the Islamic State wishes to have friendly and good relations with Pakistan. In the view of experts, what can bring peace and security in Afghanistan is noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Otherwise, insecurity and tension will continue and its scope will reach the other side of our borders and no one will be safe from it.

HCC 'Source' Reports on Air Raids, Captured Areas

LD2008150895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council [HCC] forces have achieved new successes in Baghlan and Samangan Provinces. In a radio communication a HCC source reported to us that the HCC air force has mounted air raids on some positions in Andarab and Salang [in Baghlan], as a result of which positions have been captured and heavy loss of life and material has been inflicted on the warmongers of the Kabul administration.

New clashes between the warring parties have also been reported in Jowzjan Province. But so far no report has been received about losses of life and material.

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Rabbani Forces Launch Assault on Taleban Held Town

NC2308190995 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Report by Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 23 (AFP) — Forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani on Wednesday [23 August] captured a strategic district centre on a road artery linking main cities in southern and western Afghanistan, the Defence Ministry here said.

Dilaram, in Nimroz province on the national highway between the western city of Herat and the southern city of Kandahar, fell after government forces launched a major air and ground assault on Taleban militant students holding the town.

"First we captured Gulistan, and then we started our attack against Dilaram, which fell at 9 o'clock (0430 GMT) this morning," Defence Ministry spokesman Abdullah (eds: one name), told journalists.

Pro-Rabbani troops, backed up by heavy artillery fire and jet strikes, advanced 15 kilometers (nine miles) from their former frontlines in neighbouring Farah province in the assault, he said.

The town of Gulistan in Farah province, lies a few hours drive north of Dilaram.

Abdullah said pro-Rabbani forces had now halted at Dilaram, but they would soon attempt an advance eastwards into Helmand province toward their main goal, the provincial capital Kandahar which is also the Taleban's headquarters.

Pro-Rabbani jets were also active Tuesday against rival forces of ex-prime minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, who reportedly attacked Rabbani's ally Rasul Sayyaf of the Ettehad-e-Eslami [Islamic Union] faction at his Jaji base close to the Pakistan border.

Abdullah did not confirm allegations that pro-Rabbani jets had bombed positions inside Pakistan, but countercharged that Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] fighters had prepared for and launched their attack against Sayyaf's base from inside Pakistan.

"It was a clear violation of border laws to use Pakistan territory to launch attacks against Afghanistan," the Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Western observers have speculated that the fresh military movement on the southwest Afghan frontlines after 4-5 months of inactivity, may be related to the Taleban's hijacking of a chartered cargo jet carrying ammunition for Rabbani forces.

Three weeks ago, the Taleban's MiG 21 jets forced an Ilyushin-76 cargo jet ferrying 30-odd tonnes of Kalashnikov ammunition bound for Rabbani's Bagram airbase 50 kilometres (35 miles) north of Kabul to land at Kandahar.

The aircraft's seven Russian crew members are still being detained by the Taleban.

Northern Province Said 'Totally Cleared' of Taleban

LD2408202195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting between forces of Borhanoddin Rabbani's government and Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and the Taleban group continue intensely in four directions.

A source at the Afghan Defense Ministry today said the advances of the government forces in the direction of Hekmatyar's positions in the Sorobi District to the east of Kabul were still continuing and dozens of Hezb-e Eslami positions were captured during last night and this morning and three tanks were taken as booty.

The Afghan Government sources also report that government forces continue their advances in the northern part of Helmand Province. They added that Farah Province has been totally cleared of the Taleban group. If the northern part of Helmand Province can be liberated, Kandahar, the main Taleban group headquarters will be under direct threat and a firing range for the government forces.

Reports from Sanglakh region, Vardak Province, and the northern part of Logar Province say that fighting between the Taleban group and the government forces and their allies are continuing intensely.

Fighting Escalates in Southern, Eastern Provinces

BK2408114295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Report by Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Aug 24 (AFP) — Fighting escalated Thursday [24 August] between factions for and against President Borhanoddin Rabbani in east and southwest Afghanistan Thursday, officials here said.

"Heavy fighting is continuing in Sarobi and Dilaram," National Security officials told AFP.

They said pro-Rabbani forces Wednesday captured the district centre of Dilaram and later advanced a

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further 10 kilometres (six miles) east along the main national highway towards the southern provincial capital Kandahar.

Dilaram is 240 kilometres (150 miles) west of Kandahar, the headquarters of Rabbani's religious rivals, the militant Taleban movement.

Several hundred pro-Rabbani reinforcements are to be sent to the Dilaram front, which suggests both heavy fighting and a possible commitment to push on towards the main military objective, the Taleban headquarters in Kandahar.

Even with radio contact to the eastern frontline facing their Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction rivals based in Sarobi, Kabul security officials were less precise about current battlefield conditions.

They said pro-Rabbani troops had advanced some 10 kilometres eastwards from their former frontline positions towards Sarobi, where the Hezb military base was under artillary fire.

A second pro-Rabbani attacking column was said to have closed on Sarobi from the south to occupy a mountain top overlooking the town, the officials said.

Sarobi, a strategic district centre 70 kilometres (43 miles) east of the Afghan capital, was the source of Kabul's hydro-electricity until it was cut in the factional fighting which started in January 1994.

Former premier Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami forces have in Sarobi a springboard to launch an attack against Kabul.

Meanwhile, factional fighting continued in the northern Afghan provinces of Baghlan and Samangan, where pro-Rabbani troops are engaged with not only Hezb-e Eslami but also the ex-communist Uzbek forces of General Abdol Rashid Dostam.

In Islamabad earlier, a spokesman for Hekmatyar said Hezb forces had captured a military base held by the pro-government Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], in eastern Paktia province near Pakistan.

Bangladesh

Daily Views India's 'Lackluster' Water Stance

BK1708143395 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 5 Aug 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Water sharing issue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Water sharing issue in the regional context is of paramount importance. If shared equitably the benefits are immense. The two day regional conference on "Converting water into wealth: The case of Eastern Himalayan rivers" in Dhaka concluded on Wednesday [2 August] with the belief that the conference would help organise public opinion at the grassroots level to reach a consensus over the burning water issue. The conference a follow-up programme to a Ford Foundation supported study in Bangladesh, India and Nepal adopted several resolutions for optimum use of waters of the international rivers like the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. The study jointly carried out by three research organisations of the participating countries, found tremendous potentials of hydropower generation in this region along with other resources.

Participants from the three countries agreed that regional cooperation in disaster management and preparedness was essential and should immediately be put into place to minimise losses from floods, landslides and drought. In one of the resolutions, the conference stressed on free flow of data and information across the countries to facilitate flood forecasting and early warning against disasters so that effective steps could be taken in time. The conference recommended that the governments of Bangladesh and India should arrive at an agreed arrangement for long term sharing of the Ganges and the Tista with as immediate effect as possible. The sharing of the Ganges water is of major concern and that Bangladesh is entitled to a fair share of it. The conference laid great emphasis on cooperation among the three [as published] countries rather than compete for shares of the common rivers along with the need to look ahead with an open mind and with transparency at alternative options for utilisation of water and related resources.

Bangladesh is the worst sufferer as far as water sharing of the Ganges and other rivers are concerned. The Indo-Bangla Joint River Commission is expected to hold a meeting in Dhaka in the last week of this month to discuss solution of the water sharing issue. The meeting will be a follow-up of the talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries held here last June. The resolutions adopted at the regional conference should work as guidelines for the two governments to reach an understanding on sharing of waters in an equitable manner. The dissemination of findings of the study on "Converting water into wealth" could help in arriving at a consensus eventuality influencing the governments to overcome the lingering issue.

The success of an issue like water sharing largely depends on political will of the countries to the dispute. Whereas Bangladesh is determined to resolve the problems, lack-lustre attitude of India is causing inordinate delay adversely affecting Bangladesh's agriculture, irrigation, flora and fauna which ought to be realised by our neighbour. The deliberations at the two day confer-

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ence on water issue must remind India of the necessity of reaching a consensus on fair solution of the water sharing issue. There is no alternative to meaningful co-operation in all fields of national endeavour.

Water Transit, Trade Protocol With India Extended

BK2308051995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to extend the existing bilateral protocol on inland water transit and trade for two more years from the 4th of October this year. The agreement was signed in Dhaka after a three-day official-level talks between the two countries yesterday. Our Dhaka correspondent reports that the bilateral protocol has been in operation since 1972 without interruption. It offers mutually beneficial arrangements for transit and passage of goods through each other's territory.

India Talks Said To Focus on 'Bulging Trade Gap'

BK2408130795 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 15 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Sharier Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The country's bulging trade gap with India, which increased by more than 22 times over the last 10 years, is expected to dominate the upcoming bilateral Trade Review talks due to start in the capital on August 29, official sources said.

The country's trade gap with India increased from Tk [taka] 71.43 crore in 1984-85 to Tk 1,567.97 crore in 1993-94, according to Bangladesh Bank statistics.

The ministerial level Trade Review talks between Bangladesh and India is also likely to focus on tariff barriers by India, sources in the Foreign Ministry said.

The trade talks, last held in Delhi in 1992, will also discuss unresolved issues of the last meeting and issues relating to the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

While Bangladesh has reduced tariffs at a faster rate down to 25 percent this fiscal under the trade liberalisation policy, India's rate remains as high as 70 percent. Traders often blame the Indian tariff level as a barrier to the marketing of Bangladeshi products there.

According to Bangladesh Bank figures, during the period of 1984 to 1994, Bangladesh imported goods worth Tk 6,153.98 crore from India. In contrast, over the same period the country's exports to India stood at Tk 519.31 crore only. In total, the trade gap of the last 10 years stands at Tk 5,634.67 crore.

Bangladesh imports almost all items, from cattle to aircraft parts and cotton to coal, from India — excepting fire arms.

A document presented by former Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Prof. Muchkund Dubey at a regional discussion in Delhi last year said that the trade gap was estimated at nearly four times higher in smuggling. The gap could be as big as Indian Rupee 4,000 crore annually.

Bangladesh's exports to India, which shows a very fluctuating trend, has hardly made any notable progress in the last 10 years. In 1984-85, exports to India from Bangladesh was worth Tk. 103.25 crore — which is also highest amount in last 10 years. It declined to 26.17 crore in the next year and improved to Tk 86.39 crore in '90-91. In 1993-94, this figure declined to Tk 85.50 crore.

On the other hand, imports from India grew steadily. In 1982-83, imports from India was totalled around Tk 60 crore. It rose to Tk 123.50 crore in the next year, Tk 174.68 crore in 1984-85, Tk 272.78 crore in '87-88, Tk 332.87 crore in '88-89, Tk 478.40 crore in '89- 90, Tk 644.49 crore in '90-91, Tk 882.37 crore in 91-92, Tk 1,338.46 crore in '92-93 and to Tk 1,653.47 crore in '93-94.

The recent exports to India is being dominated by fertilizer, textiles, leather, and tea. In 1993-94, fertilizers worth Tk 37.71 crore, textiles worth Tk 30.79 crore, leather worth Tk 8.42 crore, and tea worth Tk 3.41 crore were exported to India.

Export of newsprint, which had been in the list for a long time, has gone down to zero during 1994-95, an official of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation told this correspondent. Paper exports to India fetched some Tk 2.19 crore in '92-93 and only Tk 78 lakh in '93-94.

"After trade liberalisation in India, Indian importers are finding it cheaper to import better quality newsprint and papers from a third country," an official said. In the last fiscal, lower production of paper in Bangladesh also caused the disappearance of its export, another official pointed out.

The export list to India also include fish, animal fats, prepared food, tobacco, wood, pharmaceutical products, base metal, electrical and electronic goods and optical products.

On the other hand, Indian products rule at almost all levels of the local market. Among these, cotton yarn and fabrics make up 47 per cent of the total imports or Tk 770.22 crore in '93-94 and 655.19 crore in '92-93. In 1993-94, it is followed by mineral products import

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worth Tk 227.34 crore, chemical products worth Tk 117.18 crore, vegetables worth Tk 119.81 crore and engineering goods worth Tk 95.53 crore.

The Muchkund Dubey report said Bangladesh was ranked 15th among the major importers of Indian products in '92-93. "To the extent that exports contribute to growth and prosperity, it is in India's interest that there is a steady growth in Bangladesh's exports," Dubey comments, adding "and India can make an important contribution to it by substantially increasing its own off-take of Bangladeshi products."

A Joint Economic Commission between the two countries was set up in 1982 to look after mutual interests. But this Commission remained mostly inactive. Only three meeting have been held so far, first in 1986, then in 1990 and finally in 1993.

Bangladesh has proposed to India to reduce tariff on 125 different exportable items under the SAPTA provisions. India is considering this proposal, Foreign Ministry sources pointed out.

Zia Said 'Inflexible' on Demand From Opposition

BK2408101495 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 16 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Nazmul Ashraf]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is "inflexible" on the Opposition demand for a non-party caretaker government to conduct the next general elections, according to sources close to her.

"Rather, she is willing to implement her earlier pledge to resign 30 days ahead of general elections, in the wake of the Opposition's planned agitation to press for their demand," the sources said.

Begum Zia, also chairperson of the ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], expressed this sentiment while discussing the overall political situation with her senior party colleagues on Sunday [13 August].

"She also cold-shouldered the latest formula suggested by noted lawyer Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed," an influential party leader who attended the meeting told THE DAILY STAR yesterday.

BNP sources, however, noted that the party high-command is yet to reach a consensus on ways to overcome the 19 month-long political impasse caused by the Opposition's demand for a caretaker government.

The three major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — are scheduled to announce identical agitation programmes today, including "non-stop hartals [strikes] and barricades."

Apparently worried by the Opposition's preparations for carrying out the planned agitations, the ruling party is learnt to have adopted a "wait and see" policy and are weighing several options to resolve the political crisis, including making fresh offer for talks with the Opposition.

India

Gandhi Widow Said To Assail Rao in 'First' Speech

BK2408112395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Report by M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AMETHI, India, Aug 24 (AFP) — Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's widow in her first public foray into domestic politics blasted the government Thursday [24 August] for delaying a probe in her husband's 1991 assassination.

In her first ever political speech, Sonia Gandhi told a 30,000-strong public meeting at her husband's old constituency of Amethi that the central government was going slow on the probe.

"Even four years and three months later, the investigation into Rajiv Gandhi's assassination is slow," the Italian-born widow said in halting Hindi.

The comments were the first direct attack by the former premier's 48-year-old widow on the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao since he took office after Gandhi's assassination by a suicide bomber.

Sonia Gandhi's eight-minute speech and her criticism of the Rao government was greeted with thunderous applause and anti-government slogans at the massive gathering in Amethi, witnesses said.

Sonia Gandhi, who arrived here earlier Thursday to open a medical camp, was accompanied by her daughter Priyanka, who did not speak at the rally.

Clad in a fawn-coloured saree, Sonia Gandhi in her speech laced with political overtones, described herself as a member of the famous Nehru-Gandhi dynasty which had ruled India for more than four decades.

Her supporters repeatedly shouted slogans hailing Sonia Gandhi as a "saviour" of the country and the ruling Congress (I) party, the witnesses added.

She said members of the Gandhi family including prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and her late husband, Rajiv, lived and died for the country.

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"The principles for which they sacrificed their lives are being put to the test today," Sonia Gandhi, who married Rajiv in 1968 when he was a airline pilot, said in an apparent criticim of the 74-year- old Rao.

Congress activists described Sonia Gandhi's speech as an indication that she was now keen on a political career.

"I believe that Sonia Gandhi is interested in politics and will take to politics," said Arun Mallick, a Congress activist from New Delhi.

Her visit to Amethi has fuelled speculation that the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty was planning a political comeback.

Amethi, from where Rajiv Gandhi was twice elected to parliament, is now represented by Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma, a friend of the Gandhis who recently said he was ready to quit his seat for Sonia's son, Rahul.

But 25-year-old Rahul did not accompany his mother.

Congress officials say the ruling party would be willing to field Rahul from Amethi, a largely rural constituency in northern Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state which returns 85 MPs to the federal legislature.

Sonia Gandhi has repeatedly refused to be drawn into politics since her husband, who was prime minister from 1984 to 1989, was blown up by a suicide bomber while campaigning for elections.

She wields enormous clout in the Congress, India's oldest political entity, and its leaders vie to meet her at her secluded home in downtown New Delhi.

The few times she has attended Congress meetings along with Rao, she has been cheered by party activists and urged to take over the party leadership, much to the prime minister's irritation.

She is also counted among the most powerful Indians even without any official post and Congress sources say she may be preparing the ground here for a political future for Rahul, who holds a management degree from Harvard.

She runs a strings of eight welfare organisations and foundations, but has turned down offers from Rao's government to fund the organisations, saying she would not take official charity.

'Hostage Crisis' Said To End in 'Couple of Days'

BK2408123095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 24 (AFP) — The Indian government on Thursday [24 August] said it was hopeful it would soon resolve the hostage crisis in Kashmir.

A spokesman for the Kashmir administration, which is governed directly by New Delhi, said the crisis involving the four Western tourists abducted by the Al Faran Muslim separatist group would end "within a couple of days."

Further on 'Hopeful' Remarks

BK2408125895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 24 (AFP) — The Indian government on Thursday [24 August] said it was hopeful it would resolve the hostage crisis in Kashmir within "within a couple of days" and said it was satisfied with the ongoing negotiations.

A spokesman for the Kashmir administration, which is directly governed by New Delhi, said the crisis involving the four Western tourists abducted by the Al-Faran Muslim separatist group would end soon.

"We are hopeful of resolving the crisis within a couple of days," the state administration spokesman said.

The previously-unknown Al-Faran group seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, between July 4 and 8.

The group murdered a fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, in the first week of August.

The spokesman said the authorities were in touch with the Al- Faran through "intermediaries" and added the government now has "sufficient proof to believe that the hostages are alive and safe."

Commenting on the ongoing negotiations with the abductors he said: "Sincere efforts are on to secure the safe release of the hostages. We are moving towards the right direction."

Officials Address Talks To End 'National Issue'

BK2408160695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, negotiations with the abductors of the four foreign tourists are continuing and the government is hopeful of their early release. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that the talks are moving in the right direction.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1556 GMT on 24 Aug in a New Delhi dateline report adds: "India's Internal Security Minister Rajesh Pilot described the hostage crisis as a 'national issue' and said the situation in Kashmir was fluid.

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"'It is a touch-and-go situation there,' Pilot told AFP in New Delhi, soon after the spokesman's announcement in Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar.

"He declined to comment on the ongoing negotiations, but senior officials from his ministry said the separatist group was likely to furnish new evidence on the well-being of the hostages.

"Hopes of an early release soared hours after India said the Al-Faran had come close to killing their hostages following radioed 'orders' Saturday [19 August] from Pakistan to eliminate them.

"Another official Kashmiri spokesman in New Delhi confirmed that the Indian army had intercepted a coded message Saturday, ordering the group to execute the four.

"'Our priority is to solve the crisis,' he said of the hostages believed to be held atop a 8,000-foot (2,666 metres) southern Kashmir meadow called Ishben."]

No 'Breakthrough' Reported in Talks

BK2508081095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 25 (AFP)—Indian negotiators kept up talks Friday [25 August] with a Muslim separatist group holding four western hostages but have not made any significant breakthrough, officials said.

"We are optimistic that sense will finally prevail on them and they will let them free," a state administration spokesman said.

But he said that so far the Al-Faran separatist group, which is holding two Britons, an American and a German, had not abandoned its demand for the release of 15 jailed Muslim separatists in exchange for the hostages.

"They are still demanding the release ... but the Indian government has ruled out a swap," the spokesman said, declining to give details of the talks through intermediaries between government negotiators and the abductors. "We cannot divulge what is being discussed," he said.

The Al-Faran seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, between July 4 and 8. A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was decapitated by his captors three weeks ago.

The spokesman said New Delhi has "sufficient proof to believe that the hostages are alive and safe."

Sources have said the renegade separatist group was expected to furnish new evidence about the well-being of the hostages.

The Kashmiri administration on Wednesday released photographs and tape-recorded messages of the hostages obtained from Al-Faran in which the four said they had "no problems."

India says Al-Faran is an offshoot of Harkat-ul-Ansar, which kidnapped two Britons last year and released them unharmed after 17 days. The hardline Muslim separatist group disowns Al-Faran as a renegade organisation.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when the@ guerrillas stepped up a campaign against Indian rule.

India has accused Pakistan of aiding Muslim militants in the divided state.

Islamabad, which administers the southern tip of Kashmir, denies the allegations but admits extending moral and diplomatic support to their separatist campaign.

Report Calls Hostage Situation 'Dangerous Game'

MS2508102895 London INDEPENDENT in English 25 Aug 95 p 8

[Report by Tim McGirk: "Indian Moves Raise Hostage Hopes"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi — Negotiations between India and the Kashmiri rebels holding four tourists have entered a byzantine phase, in which the hostages are being used as pawns in a dangerous game between India and Pakistan.

Western diplomats were cheered by the Al-Faran kidnappers' release on Wednesday [23 August] of photographs and taped messages showing the two Britons — Keith Managan, 33, from Tooting and Paul Wells, 23 from Nottingham — an American and a German might still be alive. Al-Faran has spared its captives because India is dangling the possibility that, in exchange for the tourists, it might set free a few Kashmir rebel prisoners wanted by Al-Faran.

Pakistan also covets the Indian border state of Kashmir and has been giving moral and diplomatic support to Muslim separatists. The Indians and several Western intelligence agencies say Pakistan has been providing arms, money and training through Islamic fundamentalist groups — a claim Islamabad denies.

When the Indians claimed on Sunday that they had intercepted a radio message from somewhere inside Pakistan to Al-Faran ordering the kidnappers to kill the

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tourists on a prearranged signal, it seems their lives were saved by pressure put on the Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, by the White House. Western governments believe Ms Bhutto dealt with Al-Faran through intermediaries in Pakistani military intelligence and the Islamic fundamentalist parties.

Islamabad passed down the order among the Kashmir guerrillas on the Pakistan side of the border that the Westerners were not to be killed. This twist of events suits India. The hostage-taking has harmed international support for the Kashmiris' independence struggle. Britain, the US and Germany are asking why Ms Bhutto cannot apply more pressure to secure the hostages' freedom.

Ms Bhutto may be powerless to persuade the extreme anti-Western hostage-takers but if Al-Faran kills the tourists, international condemnation could rebound on Pakistan.

Meanwhile, a senior Indian official said New Delhi was playing brinkmanship with Al-Faran, stalling and planting misleading leaks to the media claiming that negotiations are proceeding swiftly with the kidnappers when they are not.

"Al-Faran wants us to set free at least three hard-core leaders of Harakat-ul-Ansar. We simply won't. They're too dangerous," the official said. "We routinely let out Kashmir militants, the less dangerous ones, and if Al-Faran wants to save face by using this as an excuse to release the foreigners that's fine with us."

The official added with a smile of satisfaction: "Until then, it's up to Pakistan to make sure these Al-Faran fellows don't kill the foreigners."

Daily Sees 'Stark Message' in PRC Nuclear Test

BK2008145995 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 19 Aug 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Chinese smoke signals"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China carrying out its second nuclear test this year should not be seen in isolation. It should be seen along with the missiles it fired consequent upon the nuclear test it carried out barely a day ago. Taken together, it would appear that the Chinese are sending out a stark message that cannot possibly be misinterpreted either in the region or elsewhere. The fact that China chose to test air-to-air, ship-to-ship as well as ship-to-air short range missiles 136 km off Taiwan, over which it continues to express more than a token and passing proprietorial interest, shows that the exercise can be justifiably called a comprehensive one. Towards the end of May China also took the opportunity to test a mobile Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) it is perfecting. The reach of the missile is significant: About 8,000 km, theoretically capable of hitting targets in Europe and America as well. China has been all the more keen on such displays of power projection ever since its armed forces embarked on a major modernisation drive. The naval arm, now a blue water project, is benefitting the most. The navy has also lost no time making the most of the financial attention it is getting by planting the Chinese flag in various rocks that jutt out from the sea in that region, most notably in the Spratlys, a habit that has succeeded in causing serious concern in countries like Vietnam and the Philippines.

Viewed from Washington this looks almost like an acquisitory drive designed to gain control of the waterways of the region from the Straits of Taiwan down to the Straits of Malacca, especially when America's eastward thrust aims at containment of China. When the Chinese last exploded a nuclear device they did it so soon after the conclusion of the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] conference that the ink barely had time to dry on the agreement that emerged from the conference, an agreement that maintains the status quo of the nuclear powers. This time the Chinese have chosen to explode a device barely ten days after the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Surely, there is a message in that. Moreover, the test comes days after the US announced it would desist from "small nuclear tests" in the future. Apart from this superpower jousting, the Chinese test also is a manifestation of nationalist posturing that is part and parcel of the transition that is underway in China. It is a battle for the unstinted loyalty of the People's Liberation Army [PLA]. In this process the danger is that if China's third generation leaders hand out endless concessions to the PLA, policy may end up being but a convenient handmaid to unbridled militarism.

Nuclear Cooperation With Japan, China Discussed

BK2308053395 Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Aug 95 p 13

[Article by C. Raja Mohan: "Prospects for Nuclear Cooperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Can the three Asian giants China, Japan, and India harmonise their diplomacy to work together for global disarmament and challenge the Western nuclear dominance? At first glance this looks impossible given the profound contradictions and intense mutual suspicion among the three. Nevertheless, the scheduled Indo-Japanese talks on nuclear issues this week and the proposed Sino-Indian dialogue on disarmament and security issues provides an important

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opportunity for India to explore the prospects for Asian nuclear cooperation.

India and Japan have over the last few years had regular consultations on the nuclear issues. But these talks have been far too narrowly focused on non-proliferation in South Asia to be productive. New Delhi and Tokyo need to alter the character of this dialogue by broadening it to cover the larger theme of global abolition of nuclear weapons.

Last week, at the eighth meeting of their Joint Working Group in New Delhi, India and China agreed in principle to initiate regular exchanges on issues relating to disarmament and security. This is a welcome step that opens the door for a sustained dialogue to remove many mutual apprehensions.

Divergences in perspectives

The divergences in the nuclear perspectives of China, Japan and India are real. The three have come to occupy different positions in the current international nuclear order and have different diplomatic priorities and concerns.

China is a declared nuclear weapon state and enjoys certain privileges under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. India has conducted a nuclear test and has refused to renounce the nuclear weapon option despite its apparent international Isolation. Japan, which was one of the principal targets of the NPT when it was drafted, had no option but to formally renounce nuclear weapons, but has retained the technological capability to produce them at short notice.

With the end of the Cold War and the profound changes in the international system Beijing, Tokyo and New Delhi are under increasing pressure to rethink their traditional nuclear policies. As the three reconsider their national nuclear postures, there is the danger of increased mutual suspicion as well as the opportunity for thinking about Asian nuclear cooperation.

The nuclear tensions between Tokyo and Beijing have come into public view with the recent criticism in Japan of Chinese nuclear and missile tests. The on-going nuclear and missile modernisation of China makes the Japanese nervous as they contemplate the inevitable rise of China as a dominant power in Asia. Japan is not certain if the U.S. nuclear umbrella that protected it in the past against Russia will be credible against Chinese threats in the future.

China, however, is concerned about the deteriorating relations with the United States and is fearful of a U.S. led containment of it in Asia. Chinese strategic establishment believes the modernisation of its nuclear arsenal through testing is important to shore up the credibility its deterrent in the context of the U.S. plans deploy Star Wars defence systems in Asia.

The Chinese are also concerned about the Japanese proposals to build missile defence systems either in collaboration with the Unit States or on its own. Forced to be non-nuclear the Japanese see missile defences as critical for national survival in a nuclear neighbourhood, that may include North Korea and Taiwan sides Russia and China. China and Japan may thus be locked in a vicious circle of undertaking defensive measures that are seen as provocative by the other side.

India's worry

Although it has not gone public with it, India naturally shares Japanese concerns about the Chinese nuclear and missile modernisation. The current dialogue between India and Japan must move towards a comprehensive exchange views on the emerging nuclear dynamic in Asia. India, however, feels uneasy about the Japanese diplomacy on non-proliferation. Tokyo has identified non- proliferation as a key area of its international political profile in the post-Cold War world. And possibly at American behest, Tokyo has been seeking to promote regional non-proliferation in South Asia with veiled hints of using its leverage as the largest donor of aid l India and Pakistan. India, however, has resisted these moves by Tokyo.

Sino-Indian nuclear differences are well known. New Delhi has been concerned about the transfer of nuclear weapons technology an missiles to Pakistan. Besides, the driving force behind India's nuclear policy has been the concern about China's atomic arsenal and this is unlikely to change in the future. Nevertheless as Sino- Indian relations are set on a course of steady improvement, the two sides have found opportunities for cooperation. The Chinese readiness to supply enriched uranium for the Tarapur power plant, after the United States and France backed out is a case in point.

Despite their deep differences, India, Japan and China have an opportunity to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons and challenge the Western policy of legitimising the possession of nuclear weapons by a few. At the last session of the United Nations General Assembly, both India and Japan sought to push for negotiations for the abolition of nuclear weapons. But both had to retract under pressure from the United states, which did not want any complicating development on the eve of the NPT extension conference.

India and Japan need to revive that effort and work at the golden jubilee session of the UN General Assembly to press for nuclear abolition. China, a declared nuclear

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weapon State, is at least prepared to support that goal in theory. Political cooperation between China, Japan and India on the issue of eliminating nuclear weapons has the potential of offering a powerful challenge to the Western nuclear theology, and transcending the current limited debate on non-proliferation.

Iran

Editorial Views U.S. Military Buildup, 'Meddling'

NC2508113695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Oilman Cometh"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Yankees are back again. Probably for the same reason—oil. But do they need a military build-up again?

On the pretext of reacting to what it terms, "unusual Iraqi military movements," the United States has once again stationed warships in the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, and ordered pre- positioned materiel in the region to move closer to Iraq.

The USS Independence is replacing the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Persian Gulf this week. The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt has already moved to an Israeli port and the Commander of U.S. Central Command, General Binford Peay, last Sunday [13 August] visited Amman to discuss the military situation with Jordan's King Husayn. The United States already has 20,000 troops in the Persian Gulf region, including 2,000 marines engaged in training exercises with Jordanian troops.

The U.S. military capability in the Indian Ocean, including those near Diego Garcia and another set of pre-positioned army equipment for a U.S. brigade is in Kuwait. Why, then, does the U.S. need another military build-up in the region?

Kuwait has already said that Baghdad's forces have not passed the 32nd parallel, an air-exclusion zone established by the United States, Britain and France after the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Besides following its mischievous objectives in the future permutation of forces inside Iraq, assuming the role of self- proclaimed superpower of the world, the U.S. is probably out this time to pressure Jordan to stop its trade relations with Iraq in order to strangle the ruling Ba'th Party. But the chief victim of the new U.S. policy would be the innocent people of Iraq who have been reeling under the UN-U.S.-imposed sanctions.

All and all, the U.S. is once again out to strengthen its clutches over the flow of Persian Gulf oil. One of the surest ways to fulfill this desire is further intensification of U.S. meddling in the domestic affairs of the Arab states. Creation of threat perception for the Arabs has been one Washington tactic since the formation of these ministates.

History has proven that an alien power cannot guarantee the security of these states. The Arab states of the region had better strengthen regional ties instead of relying on foreigners. The U.S. should also realize that meddling in the internal affairs of other countries will one day face the wrath of the masses. Instead of hatching plots for the future of Iraq, the U.S. should prepare a congenial ground for Iraqis to determine their own fate.

Iraqi Defections, 'Hollow U.S. Promises' Viewed

NC2508112995 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Washington Capitalizes on Kamil Hasan's Issue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A few weeks ago General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, along with several other relatives of Saddam Husayn, defected to Jordan.

The move was so unexpected that divergent and contradictory analyses appeared on the subject in almost every well-known paper worldwide.

Few points were missing in the analyses. There is no doubt that Saddam Husayn's son-in-law left Baghdad in coordination with Washington. But, how is it that Washington is trying to capitalize on the defection, spreading the rumor that Kamil Hasan would cause a major change in Iraq in the near future?

Why should someone with the position and calibre of Kamil Hasan leave his country in order to engineer a coup from the outside? If Kamil were determined to launch a coup, he should have done it while in the army, and in Iraq. It may be that he had planned to launch a coup, but failed. As a result, he had to leave Iraq in order to save his life.

Washington has tried to capitalize on the issue from two fronts: on the domestic front, Clinton has tried to garner votes by telling the American people that the Democratic Party has lived up to its promise of overthrowing Saddam. On the second front, i.e., foreign policy, the U.S. is trying to convey a message to the oil Shaykhs of the region that the White House is still committed to its objective of toppling the Iraqi ruler. In fact, the United States stationed its military forces in the region, particularly in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, with the aim of overthrowing Saddam.

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Nothing came out of hollow U.S. promises. Worried about their positions, some oil Shaykhs have been questioning U.S. seriousness in toppling Saddam Husayn.

Now, Washington is interested in keeping the kettle boiling in order to harness advantages on the domestic as well as foreign fronts. Regional countries as well as the Iraqi opposition should have realized by now that the Kamil Hasan issue is not to the benefit of the Iraqi people and the Persian Gulf countries.

President Comments on 'Trust' for U.S., Assets

LD2108164795 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Aug 24, IRNA — Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani says the United States can, as a show of good will, free Iran's illegally frozen assets.

In an interview with the latest edition of 'Middle East Insight' Rafsanjani noted there is not much trust in Iran for the U.S., and Washington's recent ban on trade relations with Iran was partly due to pressure exerted by Zionist circles.

"These bans have had no impact on our economy, and they will not affect Iran," noted the president.

Condemning all sorts of terrorist acts and groups, Rafsanjani further said the Lebanese Shiite population are targets of atrocities by the Israeli occupying forces.

Their country, the southern part of Lebanon, is occupied, and the victims of this occupation are helped by Iran. We also assist these people to expel and push back the occupation forces, added the president.

Referring to the Middle East peace plan he said in our view the plan will not work out, and it is not a just plan. "We do not see the United States as a neutral mediator in this case."

Iran's head of government noted that the U.S. vetoed the Security Council Resolution (condemning Israeli land seizures in Jerusalem) and trampled upon the vote of 14 members in favour of Israel. He also asked if this peace process was practical and durable when there still exist 4 million Palestinian refugees.

"We are revolutionary and Muslims, and we are prepared to invest and pay the price for the principles that we believe."

Referring to accusations against Iran on abuse of human rights the president emphasized that human rights are used as an instrument to exert pressure and also to achieve some goals that particularly the United States pursues.

Expressing Iran's opposition to any change of borders between Iraq and Turkey, or annexation of any cities to Turkey (from Iraq), Rafsanjani said the rights of the Kurds, whether in Iran or Turkey, or Iraq, should be given to them and they should not feel separated and alienated.

"They should feel they are part of the country and be treated on equal footing. This is our policy towards our Kurds."

Turning to the Persian Gulf and the United Arab Emirates' claim on sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, he said we think the reason behind UAE's move was foreign instigation, coming mainly from the United States. The U.S. wants to use this issue as a pretext to assert their military presence in the Persian Gulf.

He added that the issue of the islands had been resolved before the Islamic revolution, but all of a sudden it was raised two years ago, and it has been inflamed.

On relations with Saudi Arabia, Rafsanjani stressed that the United States knows that if Iran and Saudi Arabia have friendly relations, then we could resolve many matters relating to oil, OPEC, and regional security problems, and here would be no need for the U.S. to have its military based in the Persian Gulf.

"Therefore, the U.S. does not want Iran and Saudi Arabia to get together or work and cooperate with each other."

On the question of nuclear power he said we have expressed our clear hatred and abhorrence for these weapons of mass destruction. Anyone who has knowledge of the great cruelty committed by the Americans in Hiroshima and Nagasaki would not wish to have nuclear weapons.

"We are not pursuing, nor on the path of acquiring nuclear weapons."

"It is our principle policy not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. It is also based on having friendly and cooperative relations with all the countries of the world."

From the economic point of view, the president said, "I see Iran's future very strong because of its rich resources. Priority in investment goes to infrastructure projects."

Most of our needs, from designing to engineering and production, are done inside Iran, said Rafsanjani adding that growth and economic development of Iran is possible with patience and increasing efforts of all segments of the population.

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"Iran's prospect is bright and promising, and an overwhelming majority of its people realize and support the wisdom of government policies."

Putting Iran's foreign debt at dlrs 18 billion, Rafsanjani noted that Tehran had no difficulty in repayment of its foreign debt.

Tajik Opposition Leader Praises 'Positive Role'

LD2408093395 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Aug 24, IRNA — Leader of Tajikistan's opposition Islamic Renaissance Party (IRP) Abdullo Nuri met with Iranian charge d'affaires to Pakistan B. Jamshidi here on Wednesday [23 August].

Nuri praised positive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the enhancement of Tajikistan peace talks and briefed the Iranian official on the trend of signing a peace pact with Tajik Government in the presence of UN representative.

The Iranian official said Iran supports establishment of peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan and views maintenance of peace in that country as an essential factor in bolstering stability in the region.

The IRP leader, who heads a visiting Tajik mission to Pakistan, also had talks on Tuesday with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari.

China Said To Supply Power Plant Installations

LD2408195395 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 24 (IRNA) — Chinese Ambassador to Tehran, Hua Liming held talks with Deputy Energy Minister Qasemi here today on Iran-China cooperation to build thermal and combined-cycle energy stations.

Qasemi outlined Iran's decision to buy power installations from China and hoped that friendly relations between the two countries would deepen through long-term economic cooperation.

Hua, pointing to the scheduled visit to Beijing of Iranian Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh, said negotiations between Iranian and Chinese senior officials would be a significant step towards promotion of mutual relations.

Thermal Power Plant Reportedly Operational

LD2008140395 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — 'Bistun' thermal power plant built in the western city of Kermanshah at a cost of rls. 130 billion plus 799 million marks went on stream Sunday [20 August]. The plant will raise the capacity of power grid in the provinces of Kermanshah, Ilam and Kurdistan.

Official in charge of the Bistun power plant project Hoseyn Hariri said on Sunday that construction work on the plant started in 1991 with its first 320 megawatt unit becoming operational in June 1994.

Hariri said the second unit of the plant had also been put into operation in November 1994 with a capacity of 640 megawatts.

He put total power consumption in the afore said provinces at 500 megawatts and said the surplus electricity generated by the power station would be transmitted to the nationwide power grid.

The official said that foreign contractors contributed to the project by supplying its required equipment.

Hariri said that in view of an annual ten percent increase in the country's power consumption, Iran should make more investments to generate more electricity.

Editorial Views Actions by Azerbaijani President

NC2208134295 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Aug 95 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Mr. President! An Ounce of Action is Worth Far More Than a Pound of Words"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the same time Gorbachev, the last president of the former Soviet Union, was benefiting from the power struggle at the Kremlin, the veteran Azerbaijani politician Aliyev was eliminated from the scene of power. He sought refuge in the small republic of Nakhichevan after his fall from the second position [as published] on the political firmament of the former Soviet Union.

Even in that small republic he encountered some serious enemies, in the form of the Azerbaijani People's Front on the one hand and from Armenia on the other, which could occupy this tiny republic at any moment. However, Aliyev's political existence continued as he enjoyed Iran's multifaceted support.

This support from the politician residing in Nakhichevan gave him the opportunity to shore up his government when the military uprising of the young Suret Huseynov

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took place in Ganja. This uprising gave Aliyev the chance to attain his objective of taking power. He entered Baku like a hero and took the seat of power by relying on the gains of his previous tenure in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

One of Aliyev's first steps was to stress friendship and closeness with Iran, a sentiment that emanated from the hearts of the people. They had already manifested this desire a few years ago by crossing the Aras river in order to reach Greater Iran.

According to political analysts, Baku's policy of good-neighborliness conveyed glad tidings of a bright future for the independence of the people of this region, which was afflicted by an economic crisis. The use of routes linking Iran with the outside world and of Iran's political ability to bring a quick end to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were among the possibilities of which Baku could avail itself.

However, Aliyev harbored other ideas. While whispering sweet nothings to Iran, Aliyev strengthened his position at home and at the same time reneged on his proclaimed policies. The harassment of Iranian passengers, the failure to pay debts on time, the annulment of Iran's participation in the oil consortium, and the opposition to the definition of the new legal status for the Caspian Sea are among the actions of his government that can be enumerated.

In addition, membership in NATO's planned military Partnership for Peace and broadening of relations with the Zionist regime—at a time when even the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms had refrained from doing so, ostensibly at least, were among his actions which did not have any relation to the interests of the Azerbaijani people.

On the other hand, during recent weeks an anti-Iranian propaganda campaign has crested in the Aliyev government's media and Azerbaijan's private mass media, but the Baku regime has not displayed any reaction. It is worth noting that Yerevan is no longer the target of the attacks by the Azerbaijani media even though it has usurped part of Azerbaijani territory while Iran has been and is striving to ameliorate the situation with regard to Nagorno-Karabakh and the return of the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

However, as in the past, the seasoned Azerbaijani politician hastened to meet the Iranian foreign minister and once again commented on the friendship with Iran and the indebtedness of his colleagues and himself to his "Big Brother."

If Baku's relations with the Zionist regime proliferate and at the same time the activity of the Republic of Azerbaijan's Islamic Party is banned and so on, this experienced Azerbaijani politician intends to lobby for foreign support. He will also suppress the operation of political parties in order to pave the way for the victory of his supporters in the parliamentary elections in Aban [23 October-21 November].

Meanwhile Baku's greater neighbors are quite alienated due to its fickle policies and cannot trust the friendly overtures of Aliyev and his associates. They foresee a difficult and exhausting period ahead for the sincere people of that region and a future fraught with hardship for the current temporary regime in Baku.

Baku's hardened politician can only hope for the continuation of his political existence if he acts with sincerity and eliminates the causes of discontent among the people and neighbors of Azerbaijan.

Mr. President!

Mere lipservice is not enough and action is needed.

If Aliyev insists that his words are sincere, it would be preferable if he could prove it by displaying a billboard in his office emblazoned with the motto: "An Ounce of Action is Worth Far More Than a Pound of Words."

Afghan Leader Praises Khamene'i Message on Conflict

LD2308200295 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 23 (IRNA) — Chief of the Afghan Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity] party's military committee, Mostafa Kazemi said here on Wednesday [23 August] that the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i forbidding further conflict and fratricide has inspired peace and security in Afghanistan.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, he said people in various parts of the country were impressed with the message and regarded it as vital.

Kazemi said people and officials in central areas and Hezare-jat [name as received] have observed the decree issued by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. The influence of the decree is growing day by day and going to find its place among the people, he said.

He said that propagation of the message in some regions of Afghanistan had been in small extent and called for dispatch of missions to explain it to the people.

The Afghan leader said fighting between different factions in Afghanistan was the conspiracy of foreign circles and domestic elements to undermine afghan

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society and that the fratricide in Afghanistan has caused terrible plight for the Shiite as well.

He said that Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami should isolate the war-mongers within the party and said some party members dragged the Shiite community to fratricide rather than take revenge on the murderers of Abdul 'Ali Mazari.

Kazemi said over two thousand families were displaced owing to the fighting in Bamian Province and added "we have no choice but to create the atmosphere of brotherhood and unity within Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami for the sake of the Muslims' dignity and national solidarity." He said "after the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, we took it as a religious duty and announced unilateral cease-fire in Bamian Province as a move to end fighting in the country."

"We have announced to all military units that the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution is not a political message, but, a religious decree and we are required to stop fighting," he said.

Kazemi said coincident with the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, certain countries sent in more weapons to flame up the fire of hostility, but, the conspiracy was foiled in the light of the message.

He said the Wahdat-e Eslami party has begun adopting measures to resolve the problems within the party and revival of a permanent peace in the region.

The mission of the representative of the Islamic revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi has served to convene representatives of two factions as well as the representative of Hezb-e Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] in the Punjab, he said.

They are studying ways of establishing ceasefire and reconciliation, he said.

Kazemi said the constitution of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami is a credible charter for restoration of understanding and brotherhood in Afghanistan and that the party leaders could resolve a major part of their problems through the party itself.

In negotiations there should not be preconditions and the leaders should go ahead with negotiations to accelerate peace efforts, he said.

Kazemi who is also a member of Afghan High State Council said that through unification within Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and putting an end to the conflict in central Afghanistan and Hezare-jat one could hope for a general solution for the fighting throughout the country due to the importance of central parts of the country and the wide influence of the party in the country.

On the situation in Oruzgan Province, south of Bamian Province, he said, "according to some reports Talebans have attempted to capture Kabul, but, we asked local officials to defend the province."

He accused the opposition leader of the Wahdat-e Eslami party, Abdul Karim Khalili of acting in collusion with Talebans to worsen the situation in Oruzgan and lead the province to fighting.

He described relations between Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Harakat-e Eslami led by Ayatollah Asef Mohseni as friendly and brotherly and said the two parties would unite at an appropriate time. At present the high councils of the two parties are making joint decisions in different areas, he said.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami has active participation in decision-making of the government organizations In Afghanistan owing to its membership in the High State Council, Kazemi concluded.

Kabul Commentary Hails 'New Phase' in Tehran Ties

LD2208154995 Tehran IRNA in English 1227 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 22 (IRNA) — Afghan News Agency BAKHTAR, in a commentary said that the recent visit to Afghanistan by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi heralds a new phase in Tehran-Kabul relations.

The commentary broadcast by Kabul Radio and Television on Monday [21 August] added that expansion of friendly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Government of Afghanistan demonstrates good intentions on both sides and opens a new chapter in bilateral relations.

The commentary also touched on the recent meetings between the special representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, and Borujerdi with Afghan officials and personalities.

It said that in the meetings ways to return peace to Afghanistan and promote bilateral cultural relations as well as establishing an air link between the two countries were discussed.

According to BAKHTAR, support given to the Afghan people by the Islamic Republic of Iran would have positive impact on bilateral relations.

The commentary pointed to the fact that the critical conditions in Afghanistan are not to the benefit of its

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neighbors and urged all regional states, particularly the neighboring countries, to take steps for restoring peace in Afghanistan.

Lebanese Minister Pleased With Talks, Assistance

LD2408165895 Tehran IRNA in English
1348 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — The visiting Lebanese Minister of State for Displaced Persons, Walid Junblatt here on Thursday [24 August] appreciated Iran's support for Lebanon and expressed pleasure with the outcome of his negotiations with Iranian officials in Tehran.

In an interview with IRNA, Junblatt said Iran extends assistance to Lebanon and Lebanese people are thankful for it.

Asked about his negotiations in Tehran, he said he exchanged views with Iranian officials on the latest issues in Lebanon as well as regional developments and issues of mutual interest.

On the so-called Middle East peace process, he said the plan has not brought peace to the region. At present, the cities of Gaza and Jericho are under siege of the Zionist forces and are controlled by 'Arafat's men.

Junblatt said there is coordination between Lebanon and Syria on liberation of southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation and the two countries are insistent on implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Lebanon.

The United Nations Resolution 425 has called on Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon.

Junblatt emphasized the need for providing assistance to the national and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon by Beirut government and said Hezbollah has now undertaken military activities against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon.

He called for further cooperation between Iran, Syria and Lebanon to confront the Zionist regime's expansionism.

Senegal, Libya Said To Receive Oil, Gas Aid

LD2408214895 Tehran IRNA in English
1748 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Aug. 24, IRNA — Iran is to help Senegal explore oil and gas beginning next year, it was announced here today.

Managing Director of the Ahvaz-based National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC), Mohammad Javad Asemi, said that an agreement in this regard was signed here last week with a visiting Senegalese delegation.

He also said that NIDC signed an agreement with the Libyan National Oil Company (NOC) last year for developing oil and gas wells in Libya. The plan will be carried out as a joint venture, he added.

On other NIDC activities, Asemi said drilling operations are to be carried out in the Caspian Sea in September in collaboration with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for the Iran-Khazar oil rig.

He said NIDC has 38 derricks for drilling off-shore wells and two oil rigs operating further away from the coast.

Shop Owner Compared to Rushdie; Shop Set on Fire

NC2508061595 Paris AFP in English
1110 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 24 (AFP)— Arsonists claiming to be government officials set fire to a Tehran bookshop after comparing the owner to British author Salman Rushdie who is under an Iranian death sentence, the owner said Thursday [24 August].

Ebrahim Rahimi-Khamene'i, of "Morgh-e-Amin" which is also a small publishing house, told AFP five unidentified men set fire to the 24- hour shop at midnight Tuesday.

They also kidnapped its lone attendant, only to release him several hours later after severely beating him, he said.

Khamene'i said he has received a series of threatening phone calls since articles were published in two hardline newspapers here blasting a book his company published recently.

"God only laughs on Mondays" by little-known author Mohammad Reza Khoshbin-Khoshnazar was attacked for its "shameless sexual scenes and insults" against Islamic values.

The callers compared Khamene'i to Rushdie, who was condemned to death by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in 1989 for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses," and vowed to kill him.

Khamene'i said the Islamic culture ministry had banned the book after the hostile comments appeared in the press, despite having cleared it for publication earlier.

The daily KEYHAN published a protest letter by a group of Islamic hardliners last month, criticising the ministry for authorizing the novel.

"The immoral and offensive book contains shameless sexual scenes and attacks Islamic values as well as the sacred defensive war" against Iraq, the letter said.

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It said the book described Islamic loyalists who fought in the 1980-1988 war as deluded and "plagued by sexual complexes."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Lauds Health Sector Progress

LD2108212795 Tehran IRNA in English 2106 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yazd, Aug. 21, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Monday [21 August] lauded the progress of health sector made in the course of the first five-year development plan including eradication of contagious diseases.

In a meeting with the elite students and professors of university of medical education, he said the success of the students of the university indicates the talent of the Yazdis and the existence of social justice.

He said special attention was drawn to science especially to medical education during the first development plan (1989-1994).

Pointing to the breakthrough made in reconstruction of the country, he said the United States had meditated to stop the process of reconstruction through imposition of trade embargo on Iran, but, it had no effect certainly except for boosting the morale of Iranian nation.

He said the new programme on public insurance will serve to promote the healthcare in the rural and deprived areas of the country.

He said over 96.5 percent of pharmaceuticals are being produced inside the country and efforts are underway to cut off dependence on import of medicine from abroad.

Yazd University of Medical Education was established in 1983. 23,000 students have graduated from the univesity since its establishment, 400 of whom with the degree of general practitioner.

The university has a 200-member board of instructors.

Petroleum Ministry Details Activities, Program

LD2008215495 Tehran IRNA in English 2104 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — In a report released here Sunday [20 August] the Oil Ministry summed up its activities during the first five year development plan (1989-1994) and also outlined its programme for the second five year plan (1995-2000).

Following is a summary of the oil ministry's activity during the first plan:

-Crude oil output showed an average growth of 7.1 percent annually.

-Crude oil supplies to refineries reached up to 1,296,000 barrels per day (b/d) from 685,000 b/d at the beginning of the plan.

-Oil revenues gained through export of crude oil within the period stood at over dlrs. 93.4 billion, a rise of dlrs. 2 billion compared to the target plan.

-A total of 1,425,740 meters of wells were drilled.

-Liquid gas output increased to 7,000 cubic meters per day from 4,000 cubic meters.

-Gasoline, kerosene, gas oil and fuel oil output indicated an average growth of 12.8, 12.1, 12.1 and 11.4 percent respectively during the period.

-Supply of liquid gas, gasoline, kerosene, gas oil and fuel oil showed a growth of 8.1, 6.5, 4.5 and 4.3 percent respectively.

-Average liquid gas consumption within the period increased up to 94.1 million cubic meters from 21.4 million cubic meters.

-Number of gas subscribers rose to 188,189 from 156,463.

-Number of liquid gas consumers per family rose to 304,445 from 109,648.

-Annual production capacity of petrochemical complexes rose to 10,329,000 tons from 5,350,000 tons.

-Petrochemical exports rose totalled 1,899,000 tons and earned the country rls. 270.1 million, from 273,000 tons and dlrs. 26 million at the beginning of the plan.

-781 wells were either drilled or repaired while the number of oil rigs rose to 40.

-16 new oil fields were exploited, nine desalination units were put into operation, and five gas and liquid gas plants were put into operation

-Operation of phase-1 of Arak oil refinery.

-Laying pipelines for supply of natural gas to 40 cities and towns and buidling gas networks in 25 parts of the country.

-Putting into operation the Shiraz methanol and Razi de-ammonia phosphate projects as well as phase-1 of Bandar Imam Khomeini, Arak petrochemical and Esfahan petrochemical complexes.

For the second 5-year development plan, the Oil Ministry intends to attract foreign investments on buy-back basis to explore and develop oil deposits.

Among the projects is expansion of the Persian Gulf gas field of southern Pars and the Dalan and Kangan gas deposits in the Salman field, as well as setting up a gas refinery in Asaluyeh.

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The ministry plans to implement a total of 45 projects: 26 for the oil sector, 13 for natural gas and 6 petrochemicals.

Among other projects to be implemented is exploration of one billion barrels of crude oil and 400 billion cubic meters of natural gas and increase of crude oil exports to 2,528,000 b/d from 2,372,000 b/d.

Also foreseen is a rise in the output of oil derivatives to 242,692 cubic meters per day from the present 192,946 cubic meters, a rise in the refining capacity of natural gas to 74 million cubic meters per day, and supplying of 85 more cities and towns with natural gas.

Some 750,000 new gas subscribers are expected to be added to the national list in the next five years during which 13,500 kms of gas pipelines will be laid in order to meet the needs of 1,725,000 families, 1,220 new industrial plants and 13 power plants.

The report predicted the annual export of petrochemical products would earn the country rls. 4,075 billion.

Mines, Metals Ministry Reports on Activities in '94

LD2408190995 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — The monetary value of minerals exported by the Mines and Metals Ministry last year amounted to dlrs. 611 million, showing a rise of 17.3 percent compared with the previous year.

A report, released by the ministry on the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30) here Thursday [24 August], said that the ministry's metallic and mineral output last year was worth dlrs. 3.92 billion at international price. The figure stood at dlrs. 3.29 billion in the preceding year.

The value-added of industrial minerals and minerals were 10 percent and eight percent respectively last year equalling the target figure set for the same year.

According to the report the number of active mines across the country rose to 2,350 last year from 2,328 in the previous year.

Over 190 million tons of minerals were extracted last year, showing a 8.5 percent increase compared with a year before. The report said that the amount of foreign exchange spent on producing one ton of steel dropped to dlrs. 70 from dlrs. 180 spent in preceding years.

Iran's dimensional stones are now exported to Japan, South Korea, China, Italy and certain other countries at present.

The units affiliated to the Mines and Metals Ministry produced about 4.7 million tons of steel products last year, showing a rise of 21 percent in comparison with four million tons of steel produced a year before.

Over 116,000 tons of smelt aluminium were produced last year, indicating a rise of 29 percent compared to the previous year's figure which totalled 90,000 tons.

Based on the report 136,000 tons of anode copper were produced last year, showing 34 percent of increase compared to the 101,500 tons produced year before.

Cathode copper output exceeded 100,000 tons last year, registering a 34 percent rise compared with the 75,000 ton output of the previous year.

The production of cathode zinc sheets stood at 692 tons, up by 232 percent compared to the 208 ton out of the preceding year. The report indicated that 818 kg of gold were extracted last year, 428 kg of which yielded by sarcheshmeh copper complex and the remaining 390 kg by Muteh gold mine. The figure stood at over 800 kg in the preceding year.

The production of ferro silica and ferro chrome stood at 30,000 tons combined indicating a sharp increase compared with the 3,400 tons produced in the previous year.

Last year, 135,000 tons of fireproof products were produced, showing 12 percent of growth compared to the 120,000 ton output of the same products a year before.

Central Bank Sets Requirements for Exporters

95LA0310E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—Following the implementation of the new regulations on non-oil exports, greater confidence in the return of foreign exchange into the country, and support for exporters, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the general requirements for an exporter to obtain a foreign exchange commitment on exports.

The Central Bank Public Relations Office reported that these requirements are as follows:

1. It was decided that each exporter must centralize his export activities in one bank branch, and other banks, with the commitments that have been provided, will not accept him for the transfer of foreign exchange commitments.
2. He must have a valid commercial card or a limited case by case authorization issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

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3. He must have an economic code.
4. He must not have an overdue and unsettled foreign exchange commitment with that branch, with other branches, or with other banks.
5. He must have credit and be known to the relevant bank branch, and determination of this will be the responsibility of that bank in view of the following points:

A. producers are exporting their export products;

B. the presentation of documents indicating previous exports which are acceptable;
C. the presentation of a valid membership card in the Exporters' Union;
D. the presentation of confirmation of ongoing activity and good credit from a bank with a current rial account;
E. the referral of a reputable guarantor;
F. the submission of a rial security deposit in cash equal to zero to 100 percent of the value of the exported goods or a promissory note payable on demand with the endorsement and signature of the reputable guarantor and valid evidence of ownership, a bank guarantee, or any other kind of evidence of easy liquidation, to be determined by the bank.

It is necessary to note that these are examples; to facilitate exports, at the bank's discretion with regard to the exporter's credit and his fulfillment of his export obligations, even as few as one of these requirements may be deemed sufficient.

Customs Office Work To Go to Commerce Ministry

95LA0310F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—More than 100 Majles deputies have signed the Motion to Transfer the Customs Office to the Ministry of Commerce.

Mr. 'Ali Motahari, deputy from Zarand of Kerman, said to our correspondent in this regard: The work of the Customs Office is more associated with the Ministry of Commerce, and current procedures are causing many problems. Because of this, in many cases lengthy correspondence must be carried out between the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, and this prolongs the release of goods from customs.

He added: In most of the countries of the world, customs work is done under the Ministry of Commerce. The current procedure in our country has caused disruptions for those who export and import.

He noted that the prolonged time of customs formalities has caused food and produce to spoil in some cases, causing losses to the nation's economy. He noted: With the transfer of the Customs Office to the Ministry of Commerce, the problems of many of those who work in the area of non-oil exports will be solved.

In conclusion he said: This motion, which was signed by more than 100 deputies, will soon be presented to the Majles.

Pakistan

Report on Denial of Clinton Call on Kashmir Issue

MS2508103795 London THE TIMES in English 25 Aug 95 p 12

[Report by Zahid Hussain: "Pakistan Denies Call From Clinton"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Pakistan has denied reports that Benazir Bhutto stopped the killing of four Western tourists, held hostage by a Kashmiri separatist group, after President Clinton had telephoned her.

The Pakistani Foreign Office described the report as false and said Pakistan did not have any contact with the kidnappers. "Pakistan does not know the identity of the kidnappers and it does not have any means to contact them," an official said.

"The report appears to be based on a briefing from Indian sources, who are maliciously seeking to establish a connection between Pakistan and the kidnappers," he said, adding that a Western diplomat in Islamabad had communicated to the Pakistani Foreign Office that the kidnappers had ordered to kill the hostages at midnight last Sunday [20 August] and sought Pakistan's assistance. The spokesman did not give the name of the country.

"On his request, Pakistan on August 21 made a renewed appeal to the kidnappers on television and radio for unconditional release of the hostages," the official said. He added: "There was no other contact by President Clinton or anyone else."

He said that Pakistan was in close touch with the United States and Britain, but it could only appeal to the kidnappers to leave the hostages.

Pakistan has been supporting the Kashmiri separatist struggle against the Indian armed forces openly and thousands of supporters of the struggle who belong to Pakistani Islamic parties have been taking part in the war across the border.

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Bhutto Ready for India Talks if Kashmir Discussed

BK2508045095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India, provided it includes the core issue of Kashmir in the agenda of such talks. In an interview with "Eyewitness", a television news program of the Hindustan Times Vision, she categorically said that Pakistan has never turned down talks, but there should be two agendas — one on Pakistan-India disputes, and the other on the Kashmir dispute. The interview was not telecast by the state-controlled Doordarshan television on 13 August as scheduled, as the Indian Government did not allow it. The text of the interview was, however, released by the producers of the program in New Delhi last evening.

The prime minister posed a question in her interview as to why India does not say that it is prepared to sit for talks with Pakistan at which there would be a two-point agenda. She said the talks can start the next day if this is decided. Bhutto said that India should state its position about its stand on resuming talks between the two countries in an open and clear-cut manner.

Bhutto denied that the Pakistani Government is arming, training, and supporting Kashmiris and through them is spreading terrorism in occupied Kashmir. She said that no Kashmiri is allowed to be armed or trained on our soil. She said that Pakistan is prepared to accept the increase in the number of U.N. observers at the line of control between the two neighbors to verify whether or not Pakistan is interfering in occupied Kashmir.

Talking about India's objections to Pakistan acquiring arms, Bhutto said Narasimha Rao's reaction is totally different from that of late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. In June 1989, the United States and Pakistan negotiated for 60 F-16's and $4.6 billion package of military and economic assistance to Pakistan. However, Gandhi did not say that it would upset the balance of power. The prime minister asked why there is a change in the stand between these Indian prime ministers.

Chinese Official Pays Official Visit to Islamabad

BK2108163195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and China have agreed to expand cooperation and increase bilateral contacts. The agreement between the two countries was reached during the three-day [as heard] visit of Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan to Islamabad. The Chinese vice foreign minister also called on Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and delivered a goodwill message from Qian Qichen, the Chinese vice premier and foreign minister.

Minister Details Issues Discussed

BK2308110195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Aug 95 pp 1,11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad; Aug 21 — Describing his Monday [21 August] talks with the visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister as part of the high level exchanges between the two countries, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali disclosed to The Muslim tonight that he was visiting Beijing on August 31 for consultations and exchange of views with his Chinese counterpart.

Giving his comments on the purpose of the visit by the Chinese delegation, he said the two sides reviewed their relationship in a very cordial manner. "We discussed security matters especially those concerning Argentina's bid to move a resolution on NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] directly in the UN Security Council, he said.

The Foreign Minister said several other issues of this nature came up for discussion. He said friendship between China and Pakistan was warm as ever and the two sides were keen to develop and promote it further.

He said that China did inform Pakistan about the talks it was having with India. He said the visiting Deputy Foreign Minister apprised Pakistan that China and India have a long border involving too many other related issues. He said Pakistan was informed that no settlement on boundary issue had been reached so far. He said the recent talks for reduction of troops on the two countries borders covered a small area. Pakistan and China friendship, he said, would not be affected by this development. Sardar Asif said the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister specially thanked Pakistan for following a one-China policy.

On Kashmir, he said, the Chinese Minister expressed his country's keen desire for seeking a peaceful resolution of the dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and Simla agreement. The Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that Pakistan and China were maintaining very close contacts over several international and regional issues. About his agenda for visit to China, he said that basically it was a return visit. "We think we need to once again reestablish our high level contacts and they should be more frequent", he said. He said he would be taking a long agenda with him to Beijing including several bilateral and regional issues. Asked if his agenda includes discussion on non-proliferation and the issue of M-11, he said that M-11 was never transferred

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to Pakistan as had been certified by the US administration itself. He said there was no question of raising this issue. There are US reservations on the issue, he added, that the All India Radio reported on Sunday that the Indian Foreign Secretary during talks on Sunday raised the M-II issue with the visiting Chinese team [sentence as published]. The radio quoted the head of the Chinese team as saying 'that what had been supplied to Pakistan was very little and that it would not in any way upset the balance'.

APP adds: The visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan, Monday had an in-depth exchange of views with the Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali on bilateral relations, the regional situation including Kashmir and cooperation in international organisations.

Jiaxuan is on a visit to Islamabad at the invitation of Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A Shaikh. He arrived here Sunday (Aug 20) and will be leaving Tuesday.

The Chinese Vice Minister today called on the Foreign Minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and conveyed the greetings of the Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen.

Tajikistan Opposition Leader Meets With Leghari

BK2208160195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that Pakistan supports the process of national reconciliation in Tajikistan which is essential to peace and stability in Tajikistan and the region. He was speaking to Tajik opposition leader Dr. Sayed Abdullo Nuri in Islamabad today. He said Pakistan fully supports the UN peace process for a peaceful solution of the Tajik conflict, and had fully participated in the fourth round of talks as an observer.

The Tajik opposition leader briefed the president on the current stage of inter-Tajik political negotiations being held under the auspices of the United Nations. He said the fifth round of inter-Tajik talks is expected to be held next month.

Ukrainian Minister Visits, Meets With Officials

Expresses 'Keen Interest' in Ties

BK2208164795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian defense minister called on Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Islamabad to exchange views on issues of mutual concern. He also discussed bilateral cooperation and identified areas of mutual interest. The foreign minister apprised the Ukrainian delegation of the situation in South Asia, especially in Kashmir, and briefed them on Pakistan's role in solving the problems in the region. The Ukrainian defense minister expressed keen interest in promoting relations with Pakistan.

The Ukrainian delegation also called on Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani in Rawalpindi today. The defense minister apprised the delegation of the Kashmir problem and the human rights violations committed by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. The Ukraninian defense minister stressed the need to set up a joint commission to achieve common objectives.

The Ukrainian defense minister also met with Army chief General Abdul Waheed to exchange views on matters of professional interest.

Discusses Rail Network With Leghari

BK2308142395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Leghari has said there are great possibilities of Ukraine and Pakistan establish a very close and long-term relationship in trade and economic cooperation with joint ventures in industrial engineering and other specific sectors. He was talking to the defense minister of Ukraine, Mr. Valeriy Mikolayevich Shmarov, who called on at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency], Islamabad, today. He said Pakistan along with Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan is trying to connect Pakistani railway network with Ukrainian railway system, which will enormously benefit the Central Asian states, the Gulf countries and the South Asian region.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said Pakistan has an old dispute with India on Kashmir, which could not be solved through military means. He hoped that Ukraine would use its influence to find an early peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem in accordance with the UN Security Council reslution.

The president said we are endeavoring to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, which will benefit not only the people of the two countries, but the whole region.

Mr. Shmarov said Ukraine highly appreciated the stabilizing and consolidating role of Pakistan for peace in the region and its importance and influence in the Muslim world.

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Issues Joint Communique, Ends Visit

BK2408145895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Ukraine have agreed to further strengthen their bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific, and cultural fields.

This has been stated in a joint communique issued on the conclusion of the visit by the defense minister of Ukraine, Mr. Valeriy Shmarov, to Pakistan. The communique further says the two sides also discussed the issue of strengthening peace and stability in Europe and Asia with focus on the situation in former Yugoslavia and Jammu and Kashmir. They also took note of the grave violations of the human rights in these both areas. Pakistan and Ukraine have stressed the necessity of a just and peaceful settlement of the conflicts and disputes regarding former Yugoslavia and Jammu and Kashmir by way of effective bilateral talks and on the basis of appropriate UN resolutions. The two sides expressed their determination to participate in international efforts aimed at curbing the arms race.

National Assembly Member Attacked in PIA Plane

BK2508032395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three persons attacked National Assembly member Chaudhary Mohammad Ilyas on a Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] plane on a flight from Islamabad to Faisalabad last evening. Two attackers were killed by guards instantly, while the other was arrested. The plane made an emergency landing in Islamabad. APP reports Chaudhary Mohammad Ilyas received three stab wounds and he underwent an operation at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences last night. Ms. Nahid Khan, the prime minister's political secretary, went to the hospital to inquire about Chaudhary Ilyas's condition and conveyed the prime minister's deep concern about the incident. Doctors expressed the hope that he will recover soon.

BBC Office in Islamabad Reportedly Attacked 24 Aug

AFP Details Attack, Damage

BK2408162895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Aug 24 (AFP) — An unidentified group of some five youths Thursday [24 August] stormed the local bureau of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) attacking staff and damaging equipment and vehicles, a BBC representative said.

The attackers forcibly entered the office late Thursday and roughed up staff before breaking telephones, smashing a television set, and throwing petrol bombs which set fire to furniture and equipment including computers, Zafar Abbas said.

Before fleeing, they badly damaged the vehicles belonging to staff, he said adding that "it all happened in a few minutes."

Both Abbas and the bureau chief, Danial Lak, received some injuries.

Abbas could not identify the people who raided the office.

However, he said some people outside the office reportedly heard them chanting slogans in favour of an extremist Sunni Muslim group, Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP).

Sources said BBC television had recently showed a documentary on SSP and the party had reportedly opposed its screening.

Police have started investigations, officials said.

Bhutto Condemns BBC Office Attack

BK2508025195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a message from Almaty, has harshly condemned the attack on the BBC office in Islamabad and termed it a very cowardly act committed by misleading [gumrahkun] elements. Information Minister Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal also condemned the attack and said that every possible step will be taken to apprehend the culprits.

According to a press release of the foreign correspondents association in Islamabad, unknown people ransacked the office and beat up two BBC correspondents. A BBC office spokesman said that armed men set different sections of the office on fire.

Bhutto Orders Inquiry Into Attack

BK2508121495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has ordered an inquiry into the incident involving an attack on the Islamabad bureau of BBC yesterday. Taking a serious note of this incident, the prime minister asked the Interior Ministry to investigate as to how the attackers were able to come in Islamabad — a weapon-free city — brandishing arms. The prime minister ordered that investigation be completed within 24 hours

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and a complete report should be submitted to her as soon as she returns home from her current visit to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Earlier last night on learning of the incident, the prime minister condemned the attack in strongest terms and described it as an act of extreme cowardice.

'Mixed Reaction' Reported To MQM Karachi Strike

BK2408112895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, there is a mixed reaction to the strike call given by [Muhajir Qaumi Movement-MQM] Altaf Group on the second day today. Many business centers and markets are closed, but many markets like Sabatmandi and Express Market are doing their business as usual. Public transport, including buses, mini buses, and coaches, are plying in some areas of the city, but in limited number. However, private vehicles, including cars, motorcycles, taxis, and rickshaws, are visible on roads in all areas of the city. According to police sources, three vehicles were set ablaze by miscreants in the jurisdiction of Kalakot and Azizabad Police Station this morning. Two bodies have been recovered from Azizabad and Mominabad Police Station areas. One person was reported killed and four others injured in various incidents of dacoities [robberies] and looting in Orangi Extension and Darakshan Police Station areas. Another person was injured in a firing incident in Korangi.

The interior minister, Mr. Nasiruallah Khan Babar, has appreciated the response of the people of Karachi and their determination to eschew violence. Talking to APP in Islamabad, he said the government has made all possible arrangements to ensure security of the people. The interior minister made it clear that maintenance of law and order was the responsibility of the government which could not allow the terrorists a free hand.

Radio Updates Strike Situation

BK2408150295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, partial strike was observed on the call given by [Muhajir Qaumi Movement-MQM] Altaf Group on the second day today. Almost all big business centers and markets throughout the city remained closed except food markets like Sabzi Mandi which remained open. Public transport was plying in different areas of Districts South, East, West, and Malir but in limited number. Private vehicles, including cars, motorcycles, taxis and rickshaws, were also plying in all areas of the city, but their number was also thin.

According to police sources, five vehicles were set ablaze by miscreants in the jurisdiction of Kalakot, Azizabad, and New Karachi police station. Two bodies were recovered from Azizabad and Mominabad police station areas. According to police sources, one dacoit [robber] was killed in an abortive dacoity attempt in the jurisdiction of Orangi Extension area. In another incident of dacoity, three inmates of a house were injured by dacoits in the jurisdiction of Darakhshan police station area. Four other persons were also injured in different areas in firing incidents. Police further said that four or five unknown accused opened fire on the residence of MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly], Kazi Khalid Advocate, who is also member of Altaf Group negotiating team in North Nazimabad. The police guard at the residence of Kazi Khalid retaliated the fire and the accused fled away. There was no loss of any kind. In the jurisdiction of Sharifabad police station, unknown persons set on fire records and computers of a local bank and fled away.

Partial strike is being observed in Hyderabad and its adjoining areas on the call of the Altaf Group. Three people, including a ranger, were killed and eight others injured in incidents of violence in Hyderabad today.

Leghari Welcomes 'Visible Progress' Made by Navy

BK2108151295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari attended the concluding session of the Pakistan Navy [PN] annual war games Hammerhead 95 at PN Tactical School Dockyard in Karachi today.

Speaking on the occasion, the president expressed his pleasure over visible progress of the Pakistan Navy in all aspects of naval warfare. He said that oceans have a most eclipsing and futuristic international character. Therefore, a strong maritime strategy and naval presence is necessary to ensure that our sovereignty is respected. Emphasizing the sacred nature of jehad [holy war] at sea, the president called upon the naval personnel to continue to do their best and come up to the expectations of the nation whenever such an occasion arises. Reiterating government's desire to provide the Navy with the best affordable weapons and equipment, the president informed that the government was concerned about the needs of Navy to urgently replace its aging surface platforms.

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Article Bemoans State of National Navy Arsenal

BK2208080695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Aug 95 p 4

[Article by Ali Abbas Rizvi: "Navy declines 'old wine in new bottle'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — It has been a misfortune of the Pakistan Navy to have always been forced to accept old warships which had reached their retirement age in their respective countries. Once sold to Pakistan, the old workhorses were equipped with new sonars, radars, weapons and other assorted equipment. That is how they began their new lives groaning under the weight of new equipment, losing essential parts without proper replacements, struggling to stay afloat a long time after they should have rested in peace (or in Pieces). The misery of the Pakistan Navy continues.

Now there is a mounting opposition in the Pakistan Navy to the 'old wine in new bottle'. The spares of the ships, which are no longer made by the parent companies, are not available. In cases, when they are available, the spares are sold at an exorbitant price to the buyers. Sometimes, indigenous solutions have to be found, though they may not be greatly successful. The operating cost of the second-hand ships has risen to such an extent that it has left the senior naval officers distraught.

Admiral Mansur, the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), does not hide his disdain for the second-hand warships bought by the Pakistan Navy. "We acquired warships from various countries during the last 20 years by spending over a billion dollars but without keeping in view (after sales) support," he was recently quoted as saying. "I will not do that," he asserted.

A brief look at the frigates and destroyers in the Navy's arsenal would show why the admiral feels so disgusted.

Pakistan has three destroyers of the Gearing (Fram 1) Class. Of them Alamgir was laid down in 1944 three years even before the country was born. The ship was commissioned as the United States Ship Cone on August 18, 1945. It served the United States Navy for several years and then was handed over to Pakistan in the early eighties. Its sister ships Taimur and Tughril, also of the Gearing Class, were likewise launched in the mid-forties. Simple calculation tells us that Alamgir and Tughril are 50 years old and Taimur, commissioned in 1949, 46 years old. The fourth ship of the same class and the same age, Nazim, was transferred to the Maritime Security Agency (MSA) on January 25, 1990 and now serves as its flagship.

While the basic hull of the ships have remained the same, they have been loaded with the surface-to-surface missiles, several types of guns, torpedoes, sonars and four sophisticated radars air search, surface search, navigation and fire control. But there is a limit to the modernisation programme as there is a limit to the medicine given to an old man to keep him alive and well.

It is also certainly some sort of a record that the ships are manned, by captains who are even younger than the vessels.

The history of two Leander Class frigates is also not very flattering. PNS [Pakistan Naval Ship] Zulfiquar and Shamsher, built by Yarrow Shipbuilders, Glasgow, UK, were transferred to Pakistan in 1988, after some 18 years of service with the Royal Navy. They were refitted with new radars, countermeasures and sonars during 1991-93. The Leanders may certainly go on and on provided we don't find their replacements. But at what cost?

Same is the case with the six Amazon class (now Tariq Class) Type 21 frigates, recently acquired from the UK to replace the eight Garcia and Brooke Class vessels returned to the United States after the expiry of lease. The upper deck structure of the ships cracked while they were in the Royal Navy's service, necessitating placement of large steel plates on the ships' sides. The youngest of the Type 21s in service with the Pakistan Navy is 16 years old while the oldest is 21 years old. A massive renovation programme by the Pakistan Navy will only go to a certain extent in increasing the ships' potency.

It is, therefore, not surprising that in 1992-93, Pakistan Navy was forced to retire half of its destroyer force because it had become 'too' old. Poor Shahjehani Babur and Tippu Sultan are finally gone, having done more for the Navy than what they were really supposed to do. In 1993, the retired destroyers were joined by two frigates Badr and Khaibar.

On the other hand, the Indians certainly do not mete out a step- sisterly attitude to their navy. The oldest ship in their inventory which is now on its way out, is the Majestic Class aircraft carrier Vikrant, bought in 1957. Although, the aircraft carrier was launched in 1945, it was left incomplete only to be fitted out and commissioned in 1961. Retirement after 35 years of service. That's not what the Pakistan Navy would have contemplated had it been bestowed with an aircraft carrier.

The Indians have five Rajput (Soviet Kashin II) Class destroyers. The oldest of them was commissioned in 1980 and the youngest in 1988. They were not bought second-hand but built to order.

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The Indians also boast of three Delhi Class destroyers. Of them, Delhi and Mysore were launched in 1991 and 1993 respectively. The third of the class, to be launched in 1996, will be commissioned by 1999.

Also India has three Godavari frigates in service while three more are on order. The three in service Godavari Gomati and Ganga were commissioned by the Indian Navy between 1983-85. The other three will be commissioned between 1996 and 2001.

Like Pakistan, India also has Leander Class frigates but they were not bought second-hand from the UK. Rather they were built in Mazagon Dock, Bombay, the first major warships to be built in India. All six of them were commissioned between 1972 and 1982. In 1994, one was written off after it was damaged in a fire. In June this year, the Indians bought a Leander frigate ex-HMS [Her Majesty's Ship] Andromeda, which was docked at Portsmouth after its recommissioning in 1993. There are now reports that India is likely to purchase six more frigates from Russia.

After great remonstration by the senior Pakistani naval officers, the government is now considering their request to purchase four new Chinese ship from the China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) at an estimated cost of $650 to $680 million. Though, it would certainly be a good step forward, only four new units may not be good enough to meet the Pakistan Navy's requirements.

It cannot be imagined that the Pakistan Army would now use 50- year-old obsolete guns and tanks. Nor is the Pakistan Air Force expected to fly outdated pre-World War II aircraft. Most people would prefer old wines in new bottles not a fighting force. Lets, therefore, give 'new wine in new bottles' to the Pakistan Navy.

Daily Advocates Islamic Revolution To Counter West

95AS0470D Lahore NIDA-E-KHILAFAT in Urdu 5 Jul 95 p 1

[Commentary by Dr. Israr Ahmed: "New World Order Can be Countered by Islamic Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It appears that the time for changing the government is coming. The suggestions for it are seen very implicitly. The biggest proof of it is that even the United States is angry at the present government. This government is stuck between two grindstones. The government has not fulfilled the conditions set by the World Bank and the IMF because of the strong opposition and the pressure from the people. Dr. Israr Ahmed, chief of Tanzim-i Islami, said while addressing a rally at Masjid Darul Islam Bagh before the prayer said that "Uncle Sam" is upset and angry with the present government because it did not accept the conditions laid out by the international agencies and is not helping the U.S. policy to isolate Iran. The United States wants to start a war between Pakistan and India over Kashmir so that it can land UN forces in Kashmir by making noise about the danger of nuclear war between the two countries. The present government does not appear to agree with the United States over this issue. However, the government and traditional political elements cannot counter the U.S. pressure. Only a revolutionary party and its leadership can break up foreign pressure. Dr. Israr Ahmed said that only an Islamic revolution can counter the new world order. He said that Kashmir is like Pakistan's artery and Indian government is busy committing massacre of Kashmir Muslims and raping Kashmiri women. Meanwhile, it appears that the whole nation has lost pride and zeal for what is right. This is evident by the exhibition of our flashy life style which is rising daily.

The Tanzim-i Islami chief said that Nawaz Sharif has also separated himself from Islam and fundamentalism. Now, he does not even mention Islam. The religious parties in the nation are out of the political arena. One indicator of this is the untimely foreign trip taken by Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the leader of our country's largest and strongest political party.

The Tanzim-i Islami chief referred to Hazrat Ali and said that his faith as companion of the Prophet was supreme and the path of faith is open to every Muslim in the world until the end. He said that the period of virtue with the great party of Suhaba, however, Muslims still attain the status of martyrs and purity through the greatness of their acts and character.

The Tanzim-i Islami chief condemned Punjab Assembly member Abdul Rashid Bhatti for his imprudence about the use of Arabic language, worship, and the call to prayer. He called it sacrilege. He said that the divine message can be communicated only in one language. The creator himself had chosen Arabic which was the mother tongue of the Prophet. He said that Arabic language is the mean by which the Muslims can be united. Arabic is the symbol of religious unity and oneness of the Muslim world. Had it been made the official language when Pakistan was established, we would have been fully assimilated into the Islamic world by now.

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Article Views Trade Policy, Promotion of Exports

95AS0471A Karachi AKHBAR-E-JEHAN in Urdu 23 Jul 95 p 16

[Article by Najamul Hasan Ita: "Will the New Trade Policy Promote Exports?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Commerce Chowdhury Ahmed Mukhtar announced the new national trade policy for fiscal 1995-96 to the nation via radio and television. It has been decided that subsidized tariff policies on several items will be kept in the new policy. This will help in the export area. These include raw materials, machines, and other items. This policy will help determine the prices of textiles, leather goods, and cutlery. The selected items will receive lower tariffs than the standard rate. In this situation, when one of the government's priorities is to reduce the budget deficit, the commerce minister said, "The exporters have demanded for a long time that they be permitted to borrow money in foreign currency. This demand has been accepted on principle."

Under the new trade policy, the exporters will be allowed to obtain foreign debts after producing a letter of credit. This decision is commendable, and it will positively affect exports. However, the target for exports has been set at $9.2 billion. This is a very ambitious goal because, in light of our past experience, this target cannot be achieved until there are increases in ready-made goods and value-added goods and all hurdles in such efforts are removed. What is needed is cancelling the policy of dependence on agricultural products and raw and semi-prepared materials such as cotton yarn. Full attention should be given to the export, textile, and engineering departments, as well as to value-added materials.

The important fact here is that export of manufactured goods is on the rise. The greatest hurdle to this process is high production costs. Labor in Pakistan is very cheap, but still, we are behind in competition in international markets. The reason for higher production costs is the government's increases in electricity and petroleum prices. These items negatively affect the increase of exports. In order to save the export industry from increasing electricity and fuel costs, the government should give special assistance to these industries.

The government has taken steps to help exports. For example, an important reason for increasing exports has been the increase of price per unit. This addition will register its effect despite the decreasing value of the dollar. It will be implemented on the following goods.

In any event, the aforementioned steps will help exports more now. But the step that businessmen have approved of most is the permission to get loans from abroad. Details of this plan will be made public in two weeks. Under this scheme, exporters will be able to get loans from banks directly after submitting letter of credit warranties. The exporters will get conditions for credit on their own. These loans will be paid with income from exports and foreign exchange bearer certificates. The second important part of the new import policy is that the sphere of freight subsidy has been widened. These subsidies will also be given on the production of "Jersey sheet." This help will be given to exports only for the 1995-96 year. While announcing the new commerce policy, it was also revealed that only two of the 55 insurance companies in Pakistan have offices in other countries. Therefore, the government, in order to expand the insurance business, has decided to make the conditions for establishment of offices abroad more lenient. In this regard, insurance companies will not have to get permission from the controller of insurance and the State Bank of Pakistan to establish offices abroad. However, the IMF condition has been broken a little here, and the policy of subsidized tariffs will be maintained as needed. In contrast, there will be room to reduce tariffs on some items that are needed to keep the export industry healthy during the next year. This step also proves that the new commerce policy is not only better than the policies practiced during the last several years, but that it is also more flexible.

The subsidized tariff agreed on will take effect on 3 July 1995. There is no duty on exporting cotton and cotton yarn. This policy will be continued and maintained for the next three years. It will aid in building confidence in the business community and will result in increased exports.

New steps were also taken for those who travel abroad for pilgrimages. Under present policy, those going to holy places have to get permission from the Ministry of Commerce to take cars and bring them back. The pilgrims have to go to Islamabad to obtain permission. Authority to release these permissions has been given to the Export Promotions Bureau. Similarly, in order to encourage exports of jewelry, announcements were made to explain the simplification of the present system. Additionally, under the new commerce policy, our country's top exporters will have permission to use the VIP lounges at airports. Special permission slips have been issued for this purpose. Thus, it has been decided that additional permission slips will be issued to encourage exports. This will give them additional respect.

The sphere of the export finance scheme has also been increased. The following items have been increased in this scheme.

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1. Synthetic yarn and synthetic yarn blends.
2. Basmati rice packed in tins, provided that they have a specific brand name imprinted on them.
3. Mushrooms and animal casings.

Foreign businessmen from the United States, Canada, the European Community, Norway, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, and oil-producing nations are given special amenities under the new commerce policy, so that their visas can be increased to 30 days upon arrival at a Pakistani airport. In this context, and under the new policy, foreigners arriving in Pakistan, as well as Pakistanis, will be permitted to take rugs worth 75,000 rupees with them, on the condition that they pay for them in foreign currency and have received permission from the State Bank of Pakistan. Under this scheme, the condition of limiting cost has been removed. In addition, the requirement that permission be given by the State Bank of Pakistan has been eliminated. The government has also promised to make the export credit guarantee simpler.

Under the present import policy, cloth is imported from India only. The new commerce policy states that this material can be imported from other nations also. Under the present policy, there is a condition for importing edible oils that the shelf life of these oils should be increased by 75 percent at the time of import. Permission to import used airplanes and helicopters has also been given. However, the same conditions exist for boats as for new airplanes and helicopters.

Permission to import used tools has also been given. Only engineering and industrial firms can import such equipment.

If we review the new commerce policy, we find that many meaningful actions have been taken, and that new, lenient policies have been implemented in order to increase exports. Only exports are a ray of hope in a depressed economy. Similarly, the leniency involved in importing products and machinery is the same that will help expand exports. Most of the support has been given to the cotton and textile industries, because 60 percent of Pakistan's foreign currency in exports is received from this area. Efforts have been made to make the agricultural and industrial sectors work together under the new policy, so that production is increased and the manufacturing sector is strengthened. This will help us reach our export goals. However, until steps are taken to reduce production costs, Pakistani exports will not be able to compete in foreign markets. It is satisfactory to know that last year, after three years of disappointing efforts, exports reached the goal of $7 billion, and our foreign exchange reserves have been increased considerably. This has encouraged our government experts to make more daring decisions. As the result of it, the noble goal for exports for 1995 has been set at $9.2 billion. However, some business circles believe that this goal is impossible to reach because there still are many hurdles in the path of export industry and these must be removed first. The second important factor is the unbridled increase in cost of production.

The failure of the cotton corp during the last two years has further aggravated this problem. As for the talk about 18 percent increase in our exports during the current fiscal year, this number is true when we think in term of money earned. However, the reason for achieving this goal is not an increase in the amount of goods exported. What happened was that prices in foreign markets suddenly jumped up 18 percent. Actually, some decrease in the volume of exports was recorded. Therefore, steps have been recommended in the new trade policy for increasing production. Exporters have been stressed to make sure that mid-term planning is realized. The trade policy also includes steps to take strict precautions in controlling cotton diseases. This will help boost exports.

The government is responsible for following up on the restrictions that were decided for imposition on international trade during the Uruguay Round and the pact that Pakistan had signed with the IMF. These include reducing tariff rates and removing barriers that hinder free trade. Steps were taken to reduce tariff two years ago so that it can be brought down to 35 percent as per the IMF requirement. The government, however, made the right decision in ignoring this restriction slightly. However, gradual removal of restrictions on some items import of which was totally banned is exactly according to rules and regulations developed in the Uruguay Round. Thus, the 90 textiles items that were banned for import have been removed from the list. We have to see what steps Pakistan's local manufacturers of these items will take to compete with the imported goods. Pakistan after all has to enter the international market, therefore, it has to swallow this bitter pill. In exchange, our chances of accessing foreign markets will become brighter. However, it is necessary to remove the quota system according to the rules of the international trade organization.

The new trade policy helps the industries that had received support during the last year also. Among these textiles, leather, and cutlery need special mention. Sales tax and duty has also been reduced on the import of machinery and raw material so that machinery and raw materials that help boose exports are available. It is expected that these subsidies will help reduce production costs and strengthen the manufacturing groups.

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The business circles have praised the decision to exempt cotton and cotton yearn from export duty in 1995-96 and reduction of import duty on them. Since this decision will be in effect for three years, this has provided the industrial circle the framework within which it can develop better procedures. Now we should also be hope that no major change is made in this policy. In the past, repeated changes under pressure from some circles had made many industries sick. As the result of it there was no progress in the value-aided industries. Only the spinners benefitted from it as they had stockpiled domestic yarn and wool and later tried to do business at prices of their own choice.

An important aspect of the new trade policy for the exporters is the investment department which has reduced the markup from 20 percent to 13 percent. This will result in improving the financial situation of the exporters. At the same time, permission to get loans abroad on production of a letter of credit will greatly help exporters expand their trade because the rate of markup in other nations is less than half of Pakistan's subsidized rate. The government of Pakistan and the State Bank of Pakistan will not interfere in these loans. Thus, the exporters will have to follow the terms of payments of these loans as agreed between them and the lending banks. Another benefit of this will increase in the liquidity of our banks which will be helpful to the local industrialists. The list of export finance has been lengthened and synthetic and blended yarns have been included in it. Basmati rice, animal casing, and mushrooms have been added to the list also. The export guarantee has been simplified so that the exporter do not face problems.

To make sure that raw material and "middle material" are available for import, duty on these items has been reduced. This will help remove the barrier in increasing their production. It will be difficult to increase exports if this is not done. However, it is necessary to pay attention to pesticides in the area of imports because pesticides that are not used in the exporting countries or those banned by the Pakistan Registration Act of 1971 will not be allowed to be imported here. The reason for this action is the fear that harmful pesticides do not find an illegal form for entry into our country. The government will have to take strict action here as harmful pesticides might arrive here via smuggling and the farmers will destroy their crops by using them. It is important to praise and mention one small action here. A very minor effort has been made in the area of education and permission has been given to import used books and magazines. This is a great action for intellectual training, however, we have to be careful so that obscene and recreational material does not start coming under the guise of these books and magazines.

Pakistan has been accused of dumping its exports, especially textiles. The government has successfully defended against these baseless accusations so far and these accusations have been take back by many countries. This is still going on, however, the government and the business circles should protect their business interests smartly and courageously. Such vile propaganda will adversely affect our exports. At the top of this list are child labor and working environment. However, the present government has provided more resources and money to resolve this problem than the previous governments.

The demand by business circles to increase "duty drawback" rates is not appropriate for the present time, however, immediate steps should be taken for its payment via banks. The commerce minister has already made promise to follow up on it. The business community should stop depending too much on the government as a crutch. Right or wrong, but as the world is moving toward free economy, the government interference will decrease. Demanding more and more from the government in this situation only shows the emptiness of the propaganda about liberalizing economy. Let us hope that the determination made for aggressive efforts in the new trade policy is made possible by the business community so that the optimistic goals to raise exports to $9.2 billion is achieved.

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